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Friday March 15 1996

Abu Dhabi D 8.50	Algeria L 2.50	Andorra FF 10	Australia AS 25	Bahrain BD 0.35	Belgium BF 20	Bulgaria L 170	Cambodia R 100	Cyprus CC 1.00	Czech Republic KC45	Denmark DK 15	Dubai D 8.50	Egypt EG 2.50	Finland FM 10	France FF 10	Germany DM 3.50	Greece D 250	Hong Kong HK 25	Hungary P 200	Iceland IK 105	India Ru 50	Israel IS 9.00	Italy L 200	Jordan JD 1.25	Korea KR 180	Kuwait KD 10.00	Latvia US 2	Lithuania US 2	Luxembourg LF 55	Madagascar M 200	Malaysia M 2.50	Malta ML 0.45	Marocco D 25	Netherlands G 4.00	Norway NK 15	Qatar QR 1.00	Pakistan R 70	Poland Z 5.70	Portugal E 200	Romania R 10.00	Russia US 2.40	Saudi Arabia R 10	Slovakia SK 55	Slovenia S 200	Spain P 225	Sweden S 100	Switzerland SF 3	Taiwan NT 200	Thailand B 50	Turkey TL 100.000	Ukraine US 2.00	USA US 2.75	Zimbabwe Z 27.00
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The Guardian INTERNATIONAL

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NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR
46.501

The latest in music, books and the arts

Review

Plus: Dennis Pennis plays celebrity dares

Sting takes on the world

Exclusive first-night review



Street fighter

Richard Williams on Don King

Hamilton had six gun permits and was known to the police and politicians after pervert allegations

Who licensed him to kill?

Massacre details being held back by inquiry rules

Sarah Boseley and Michael White

THOMAS Hamilton, the disgraced scout leader who shot dead 16 small children and their teacher on Wednesday, held firearms certificates for two rifles as well as the four handguns found amid the bodies when the slaughter in the primary school gym finally stopped, it emerged yesterday.

As a senior Scottish judge was appointed to head an inquiry encompassing everything from school security to tighter firearms controls, the Scottish Secretary, Michael Forsyth, revealed that Hamilton was first granted a gun licence in 1977.

At the time of the Dunblane massacre, which ended when Hamilton turned a weapon on himself, he was authorised to keep two .357mm revolvers and two 9mm pistols, believed to be the weapons recovered at the scene of the shooting. He was also allowed to keep a 7.62mm rifle and another rifle, but he was not thought to own either at that time.

As it began to be questioned how this man could possibly clear the hurdle required under the Firearms Act 1968, which states that police must be convinced an applicant is not "of intemperate habits or unsound mind or ... for any reason unfitted to be entrusted with a firearm", an extraordinary insight into his thinking was provided by the arrival at television stations and newspapers of letters he had written to the Queen, the Scottish Secretary and others.

Copies of the seven letters, posted the day before the killings, revealed Hamilton's obsession with child abuse, [of] carrying out their failed pervert hunt using unfair tactics".

In his letter to the Queen written a week ago, he accuses the Scottish Scout Association of passing on the information "that I was a pervert" to the public in an underhand manner. "Over the past 20 years of youth work, this has caused me untold damage including Council, Police and Social Work investigations. In a further letter, he accuses a Scout official of trying to influence the Dunblane Rifle Club Committee to stop his boys' group using its rifle range.

In what now seems a dreadful hint of what was to come, he reveals his suspicions of Dunblane primary school. Writing to the education convener of Central regional council in January, he says: "At Dunblane primary school where teachers have complained all of the older boys with this poison, even former cleaners and dinner ladies had been told by teachers at school that I am a pervert."

It also emerged that one mother went to police in 1989 with accusations about Hamilton's sexual activities during a summer camp her son had attended. Later, she says, Hamilton threatened her with a shotgun. When she complained again to the police, she was told the man had a

licence for the weapon. The three children most seriously injured in the shooting are still critically ill in Glasgow's Yorkhill hospital. One boy, who was shot three times, went through emergency surgery yesterday and is on a ventilator.

Another boy, aged five, has multiple wounds and is expected to be operated on later today. The third child, a girl, has a fractured thigh bone. Two children who spent the night in Falkirk hospital were allowed home, while five at the Stirling Royal Infirmary, together with two teachers, were making good progress.

The headmaster of Dunblane primary school described yesterday for the first time how he ran to the school gym to find a scene of carnage. Ron Taylor, aged 45, who was first at the scene of the killings, "voiced the shock and disbelief of the small Scottish town. "Evil visited us. We don't know why, we don't understand it, and I guess we never will."

"We tried to identify those who were still alive and those whose wounds could be treated. We did what we could. We tried to stop the blood. The children were traumatised and the ones injured were still conscious and very distressed."

At Westminster, after a Prime Minister's question time entirely given over to expressions of sorrow and dismay, Mr Forsyth announced the appointment of Lord Cullen, who chaired the investigation into the Piper Alpha disaster, to head the Dunblane inquiry, which will be held in public.

Calls for further restrictions on gun ownership were muted, due to the atmosphere of mourning in the Commons, but signalled the likely pressures to come. Sir David Steel, the former Liberal leader, asked Mr Major if further steps to prevent "the madness of yesterday" could not be taken by adopting Firearms Consultative Committee proposals. These include tighter controls on gun clubs and the introduction of the "good character" test when granting gun licences.

Some MPs are expected to demand that legally-held guns should not be kept at home where they are always accessible and easily stolen.

In an unusual gesture, John Major and Tony Blair, accompanied by Mr Forsyth and the Scottish Secretary, Gordon Robertson — both local men who knew Thomas Hamilton — will visit Dunblane together this morning. The Queen and Princess Royal will make the journey on Monday.

MPs listened in a rare Commons silence that lasted an hour as the Prime Minister spoke of "the most unimaginable horror" of what had happened and the Labour leader — evidently emotional — asked: "How many parents last night will have clutched their own children to them, and imagining the pain which for others is all too real?"

Some details of the murders were being withheld by Scottish police on the grounds that the matter is sub-judice. Police practice in Scotland, where contempt of court laws are more rigorously enforced than in England, is to say as little as possible while any court case or fatal accident inquiry is pending.



A poignant message and a teddy bear placed among the flowers and tributes outside Dunblane primary yesterday

And there unclaimed hang the anoraks

Euan Ferguson was one of a small group of journalists allowed inside Dunblane primary school yesterday. This is his account:

THE images are there for us, as we knew they would be. The small row of uncollected anoraks, quilted purples and pinks, hanging forever in the children's cloakroom. Three small bikes left in the shed. Paper snowflakes, cut out with tongue-between-the-teeth care, plaster the windows. In one classroom, by the main entrance, a row of cheerful paper skeletons dangles and we count furiously to see how many there are.

But it's the smaller, more telling images that cut so deep. The bullet holes are photographed, but note the position of one of them: 10 feet high, crazing a quarter-light window at the top of the wall bars that line the gymnasium, when the other three shots had peppered windows at waist-high level, windows now blocked and hung with sad, dirty curtains and dust-sheets.

Someone, it's clear, was trying to climb to safety, and he saw them. At the door where Hamilton entered, just off the playground, a further three shots passed through the glass of the cloakroom, just to the left of a stairwell. He adjusted; the next two are at a much lower level.

Shivering in this yard of bare bushes and buckled tarmac, the cold sixties school architecture supplemented by the inevitable Portacabins of all our yesterdays, you try to force yourself towards the killer's perspective: what he was he feeling as he walked over this spot; and one thing he must have felt is too big.

The days when the playgrounds were vast, the corridors yawning, have long fled, and a primary school is seen for what it is: a place for the small, where adults can cross the asphalt in short seconds, pace through rooms in a flash, and where Thomas Hamilton could outpace his victims, stroll from first bullet to last, in a little over two minutes.

For the chosen dozen, desperate to get in, it is a relief to get out. This may have been the last visit; plans are already underway to demolish the gymnasium, if not the whole school, and build a memorial to the children of Dunblane.

Left behind, apart from the curtains and the scene-of-crime tape, there are only 10 tiny signs of the carnage: those seven holes, plus another three in the window of a Portacabin near the gym.

Here he came, after lining up the doomed in the gym and opening fire. He stormed out of the main building's fire exit towards a terrified PT class that had watched, frozen, from their cabin across the yard, and opened up as they leapt below their desks.

Now this gloomy little yard lies perfectly quiet, void of movement apart from the shadowed figures of forensics near the end of their work. Above, the Ochills sit heavy with snow; and round the rim of the bowl, in which the school lies, the high empty spaces of Dunblane are speckled with distant watchers and cameras. And the silence shrieks.

Shivering in this yard of bare bushes and buckled tarmac, the cold sixties school architecture supplemented by the inevitable Portacabins of all our yesterdays, you try to force yourself towards the killer's perspective: what he was he feeling as he walked over this spot; and one thing he must have felt is too big.

Euan Ferguson writes for the Observer. Read his full report on Sunday.

24 January 1996
PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Sir,

I am a parent and at a meeting of the 25 pupils who were members of the Dunblane Rifle Club I was told by teachers at school that I am a pervert. There have been reports at many schools of our boys being reminded up by staff and even teachers to make remarks by headmaster during speeches.

Yours sincerely,
Thomas W Hamilton

Hamilton's letter complaining about teachers at Dunblane

On other pages

"Thomas Hamilton sat down in his scruffy, damp flat in Stirling and tapped out what was to be his final angry complaints against the world."

— Duncan Campbell on the extraordinary and terrifying world of a mass killer, page 3

"Scotland has a problem with violence which isn't unique, but it's unique in the manner of its acceleration... it's not so

much the corruption of our innocence, as the ruination of our experience."

— Andrew O'Hagan, Review cover story

Paul Barker asks what society can do in the reasonable pursuit of safety.

— page 9

Dunblane massacre reports, page 2-3; Leader comment and letters, page 8.

Inside

Tony Blair suffered one of his biggest rebellions when 25 Labour MPs, including two former Shadow Northern Ireland Ministers, voted against the renewal of the Prevention of Terrorism Act

Home

More than 70 people were injured yesterday as thousands of stone-throwing demonstrators fought pitched battles with Cypriot riot police outside the Archbishop's Palace in Nicosia

International

Action is imminent against former executives of Barings, the merchant bank whose £800 million collapse rocked the City a year ago, according to authoritative sources

City

Australia, who refused to play Sri Lanka a month ago in Colombo, cannot feel relaxed about facing them in the final in Lahore on Sunday after a nerve-racking victory over West Indies last night

Sport

Comment, letters 8
Obituaries 10
Reviews Crossword 15
Weather 16; Radio 16; TV 16

Comment, letters 8
Obituaries 10
Reviews Crossword 15
Weather 16; Radio 16; TV 16



DON'T BE A FOOL THIS APRIL

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Headmaster reveals horror of scouring the mounds of dead and dying children for survivors after killer ran amok in gym class



Class P1 of Dunblane Primary School, near Stirling, and their teacher, Gwen Mayor — 16 children and Mrs Mayor died when gunman Thomas Hamilton opened fire on them

'Evil visited us. We don't know why'

Erland Clouston, Vivek Chaudhary and Alex Bellis

THE headmaster of Dunblane Primary School described yesterday for the first time how he ran to the school gym to find a scene of carnage where 16 of his pupils and a teacher lay dead or dying.

Ron Taylor, aged 45, who was first to arrive, echoed the shock and disbelief of the small Scottish town: "Evil visited us. We don't know why; we don't understand it, and I guess we never will."

He told how he feverishly checked over the mounds of children's bodies to see who had not been fatally injured. "We tried to identify those who were still alive and those whose wounds could be treated. We did what we could. We tried to stop the blood. The ones injured were still conscious and very distressed."

He added: "I still feel deeply shocked and still very, very distressed. My thoughts and the thoughts of my staff are obviously with the friends and families whose lives have been devastated by the appalling incident."

As Dunblane was yesterday coming to terms with the scale of the tragedy, seven survivors, including five children, were said to be making

good progress at Stirling Royal Infirmary.

One boy in intensive care has multiple wounds to his chest, foot and eye. Although still critically ill, his condition had stabilised last night, and doctors hoped to operate on the eye. Another is expected to be taken off a ventilator soon. A girl, who has a fractured thigh, was moved from intensive care to an orthopaedic ward.

Steve and Beverley Birnie, whose son Matthew has bullet wounds to shoulder and chest, said: "He's been able to speak to us and he's very curious about what's going on. The staff have been excellent. He was in X-ray and he wanted to know why they were taking pictures of his insides."

Mr Birnie, a business manager for a drugs company, said he was on his way to Dundee when his company director rang to tell him of the shootings. He phoned Dunblane police station to find out if it was a primary or secondary school. I think every parent thought that there was a one in 700 chance it could have been their child.

"When I found out that it was my little boy's class, the numbness just started."

He said: "It's very difficult to have feelings, because I can't understand it. I don't really know what to feel. I can't understand anyone who would do this."

Tom Weir said his son Stewart was being very vague about the incident. "He is a bright wee kid and luckily he did a runner. He said a man pointed a gun at him. He felt his leg but kept on going. He knows his teacher is dead and he seems to be holding up well. I don't want to push him about it. I want him to tell me himself. Once he gets home I think he will start asking questions."

One of the children killed was the daughter of Dr Kathryn Morton, who was on duty as the dead and injured were brought to the hospital.

Another couple, Willie and Karen Turner, yesterday spoke of a five-hour wait at the school before they learned their daughter Megan was among the victims.

Mrs Turner said: "Minutes seemed like hours and then turned into hours. There was no information, the waiting seemed to go on for ever. The parents of injured children seemed to be told earlier, but it was 2pm before we were finally told that Megan was gone. None of the parents were brought together. We all went in at different times. It would just have been too much to bear."

All night and all yesterday, tributes arrived in Dunblane from all over the world. Flowers, teddy bears and messages were placed at the school gates. One read: "May God

take better care of you than this world ever did. From all the people in our office who cried for you today." Another simply read "Why?"

As police carried out a "full ballistic and forensic examination", Central Scotland's chief constable, William Wilson, himself a resident of Dunblane, said he was not looking for anyone else in connection with the tragedy but that Scottish legal constraints prevented him from divulging more.

In the town centre, most shops were closed and many friends and relatives of the bereaved sought solace in the 13th century cathedral, which is to hold a vigil tonight.

The Reverend Jim Benson, of Balquidder Parish Church, said he saw tears, shock but little anger as he and colleagues counselled distraught families.

"Some were articulate and wanted to talk immediately. Some were just in a state of shock. I saw one family whose little girl had lost nine friends. After such a shock as that, people are not able to speak. Their questions will come later."

By midday, a leaflet from Central region's social work department appeared on the counters of the few shops remaining open. Headed Dunblane Primary School Incident, it warned: "At first you may feel numb. The event

may seem unreal, like a dream, something that has not really happened."

Mike Ransom, director of social work for Central region, said they had received 120 requests for assistance on the special helpline.

At the Post Office a fax from Gretar Oddsson of Iceland was taped to the window. "Please convey my deepest sympathy to all the inhabitants of your community." On the pavement opposite Harry Wright sadly fanned out a wad of condolences sent to Dunblane from Hawaii, China, the Netherlands and Canada on the internet. "I am taking them up to the school so that they will be available to the parents and staff."

The dead: Victoria Clydesdale; Emma Crozier; Melissa Currie; Charlotte Dunn; Kevin Hassell; Ross Irvine; David Kerr; Mihari McBeath; Brett McKinnon; six; Abigail McLennan; Emily Morton; Sophie North; John Petrie; Joanna Ross; Hannah Scott; Megan Turner; and teacher Gwen Mayor, 45.

The injured: Annie Adams; Coll Austin; Matthew Birnie; Amy Hutchison; Ryan Liddell; Mark Mullan; Andrew O'Donnell; Victoria Porteous; Robert Purves; Benjamin Vallance; Stewart Weir, six; and two teachers Mary Blake and Eileen Harild, 44.

'Sweet child who always had smile on face'

A FEW weeks ago six-year-old Charlotte Adunn wrote to old schoolfriends in Cradley, West Midlands saying that she "loved it in Scotland but was missing everybody". On Wednesday the girl whom former neighbours described as "a sweet child who always had a smile on her face" was shot dead.

She moved to Dunblane six months ago with her family, and was due to go back in less than a month when her father finished his work for a water-purifying company in Stirling.

"The family were hoping to come back in time for Easter and Charlotte was going to restart school and join her old class and friends," said former neighbour Angela Jones.

Friends and family travelled from the Midlands to comfort the Durns, whose house in Dunblane had the curtains drawn yesterday. Relatives said they were too distraught to talk.

AS Robbie Hurst was dropped off at the school gates he told his grandfather Jackie: "I love Wednesdays grandpa, because it's PE today." An hour later five-year-old Robbie, an only child, was taken away from

the murder scene with his gym kit drenched in blood, but without a scratch.

When Thomas Hamilton sprayed the gymnasium with gunfire he had dived for cover behind the lifeless body of his best friend, Kevin Hassel.

Once Hamilton turned his gun on himself teachers ran into the gymnasium to find Robbie, nicknamed Chumkie because of his big build, in deep shock. He was taken to hospital, followed by his parents Billy and Janette.

Robbie's 70-year-old grandfather, Jackie Hurst, who had left him at the school gates said yesterday: "Lord only knows how he will ever get over something like this. The awful thing is that Robbie doesn't know that Kevin has gone."

WHEN Stewart Weir saw Hamilton wielding his gun he started to run for cover. But Hamilton saw him and fired a shot that caught him below the knee.

Stewart's father, Robert, said at the moment the boy looked on Wednesday as an "adventure", but he would be shattered when he realised his friends were not coming back.

"My son has been very vague about it all and I don't want to push him about it. I want him to tell me himself."

"He is a bright wee kid and luckily he did a runner. He knows his teacher is dead and he seems to be holding up well. Once he gets home I think he will start asking questions."

Talking of the wait to find out if Stewart, who will be six on Sunday, was dead or alive Mr Weir, aged 31, said: "I just wasn't rational in the things I was saying. I was desperate to find out how he was ... whether he was dead."

Police and clubs call for calm amid firearms outcry

Gun laws

Court appeals help keep licence refusals to 1pc

Duncan Campbell Crime Correspondent

ONLY 1 per cent of people who apply for firearms certificates are rejected, according to police and Home Office figures. The statistics are likely to be used in the growing call for a tightening of the law on the issuing of licences.

But politicians, police and gun club officials appealed yesterday for a period of reflection before any changes are made.

Currently chief constables must be satisfied that gun licence applicants are not prohibited from possessing guns under the Firearms Act, and are not "of intemperate habits or unsound mind". Police must also be satisfied that public safety will not be endangered and there is a good reason for requiring firearms. The regulations say: "All applicants are subject to a full background check to enforce these standards."

Forms must be countersigned by a British resident who has known the applicant



The Stirling gun shop where Hamilton bought his weapons

for at least two years and who is an MP, a magistrate, a religious minister, a doctor, a lawyer, civil servant, bank official or "person of similar standing". If a person is refused a licence they can appeal to the crown court. A former chief police officer said such appeals were almost invariably successful, which "does make police officers quite angry".

If a person is regarded by police as unstable or unrel-

able but has no convictions, it is very hard for the authorities to refuse a certificate, which lasts for five years.

In 1994, of 2,005 applications for firearms certificates in Scotland, only 14 were refused and 23 old ones revoked. In England and Wales, 120 applications out of 11,700 were refused.

Roy Cameron, president of the Association of Chief Police Officers (Scotland) and Chief Constable of Dumfries

Gun facts

Firearms: 31,952 issued in Scotland, 1994. Certificates have to be renewed every five years.

2,005 were new applications of which 23 were revoked.

Shotguns: 70,424 issued in Scotland, 1994. Certificates have to be renewed every five years.

3,663 were new applications of which 35 were refused, 61 were revoked.

Impact on crime

Per cent of crimes involving firearms, Scotland, 1994.

Homicide	8%
Attempted murder	7%
Robbery	7%
Assault	Unsettled

In 57% of firearm offences, the main firearm used was an air weapon.

Gun clubs

There are 2,300 in the UK, 50 in Scotland.

- The club is a genuine rifle or pistol club with a written constitution.
- Principal officers are "responsible people."
- Must have at least 10 members.
- All members must be of "good character" and must sign form saying they are not prohibited from possessing a firearm.
- Must provide secure storage facilities for firearms.
- Before becoming a full member, individuals must serve a probationary period of at least three months. The period may be waived for someone who is already a full member of another approved club or holds a firearms certificate.
- Club approval covers target practice only for full-bore rifles, full-bore pistols, small-bore rifles and small-bore pistols.
- Approval lasts for six years. When the Secretary of State grants approval, the club pays a fee of £24.

Ireland Hopping

Win a short break to the Emerald Isle in "Life in Ireland" free this Sunday in the Observer

ST PATRICK'S DAY

THE WORLD OF THOMAS HAMILTON

Revenge of the misfit

poison

ay year

on the outside

THE WORLD OF THOMAS HAMILTON

Hamilton had been hostile and unapproachable for many years. In a confused childhood, he had been brought up to believe his mother, Agnes, was his older sister. . .



Revenge of the misfit poisoned by years on the outside

Owen Bowcott, Peter Hetherington and Duncan Campbell

ON JANUARY 26 this year, Thomas Hamilton sat down in his scruffy, damp Kent Road flat in Stirling and tapped out what was to be one of his final angry complaints against the world. Less than two months later he acted out the revenge he sought against a society that had "contaminated" and "poisoned" people against him.

In his neatly typed letter to the education convener of Central Regional council, he used the words "pervert" and "heard vague gossip" that he was a "pervert". When "previously happy people are poisoned in this way they become hostile and unapproachable," he warned.

Hamilton had been hostile and unapproachable himself for many years. In a confused childhood, he had been brought up to believe that his mother, Agnes, was his older sister. His "parents" were, in fact, his grandparents, Jim and Kate Hamilton.

His real father, Thomas Watt, now aged 65, last saw his son when he was 18 months old when he and Hamilton's mother broke up. He has since remarried and has four children. Yesterday Mr Watt, now living in Glasgow, was still finding it hard to believe "I brought this monster into the world. How do I tell my two daughters and my two sons that this monster is their half brother?"

Hamilton's grandfather, Jim, now aged 88, whose wife died in 1988, left the Kent Road flat he shared with his grandson after a row. He has not spoken to him for four years.

Hamilton's mother, Agnes, said she did not recognise the killer as her son. She said she had never known him to be angry or to bear a grudge. "He seemed to get on with everybody that I know of," she said.

But Hamilton's big problem was that he hardly got on with anyone. He was in his early twenties when he suffered his first major rebuff,

being removed from the Scout Association in 1974, less than a year after he had become a leader. The grudge he felt at his dismissal never left him.

He was expelled because he was seen as irresponsible rather than because of any sexual malpractice. John Fogg, of the Scout Association, described why he was asked to leave. "His expulsion followed two weekend camps to the Avonmore area in 1974. During the first weekend Hamilton claimed that he and a party of eight boys had been booked into a hostel in the area. Inquiries revealed this to be untrue.

"Hamilton and the boys had in fact slept in the back of a van. The van had frozen overnight in the inclement weather and had to be towed to a garage. The boys were found to have been extremely cold after an uncomfortable night."

On a second occasion parents complained that their sons had been asked to dig snow holes and had been cold and soaked. It was decided that Hamilton was unsuitable material.

Former Scout Commissioner Corrie Deuchars, now aged 68, also remembers the young Hamilton. "His organising skills were dismal. He was not right for the job. There was no planning to his activities. He was in it for selfish reasons rather than the interests of the boys."

Mr Deuchars, a retired British Rail worker who is now a lollipop man in Stirling, said he knew of no improper behaviour on the part of Hamilton and had no misgivings when Hamilton started up his own youth clubs after leaving the Scouts.

Ever since that departure, Hamilton pursued his twin interests of boys clubs and guns. Despite the rumours and misgivings of parents, he was surprisingly successful in setting up clubs and recruiting members.

One 15-year-old from Stirling, who attended Hamilton's clubs held at both Burnockburn High and Dunblane High schools described what became the standard procedure in the clubs. "He used to say to us 'You should take off your T-shirts and have bare tops'. So you would just have

your shorts on. He used to say 'Let's see who has the best build, and you can be captain of the football team'."

A 13-year-old said: "He was really mad about fitness. He would video the gymnastics. My dad banned me from going. He used to say to me 'You can come around and see my gun'. I thought he was a right weirdo."

Thomas Hamilton hired school halls — usually the gym — from three separate local authorities to run sports clubs for boys over a period of at least 10 years. One by one they became anxious about his activities and terminated the agreement.

After Central Region council decided it would no longer

Three children had run away, apparently because of the stringency of the training. There was no suggestion of sexual abuse, but councillors had heard other stories too.

Tom Dair, then education chairman and now vice convener of Fife regional council, took the decision to cease the lets. "There was nothing tangible that we would want to draw to the attention of the police. We were made aware of those videos he was taking and the photographs of the youngsters. It was more of an instinctive response to a number of things that had been building up."

Fife had encouraged Hamilton to set up a parental support organisation for his ac-

who has revealed that the killer came for advice to his regular correspondents. "He was one of my regular correspondents."

Mr Forsyth said he had discussed Hamilton with police but they were unable to find evidence against him, which could result in a prosecution.

In his letter to the minister, headed "Boys Sports Club Group Committee" — an organisation which has been described as a figment of Hamilton's imagination — he writes: "Mr Forsyth, in 20 years of operation of our lawful activity, there has never been any law-breaking or any suggestion of sexual child abuse from any boys against either myself or any of my leaders."

rub suntan oil on to Hamilton, and were stripped and thrown into the freezing loch.

Mrs Hagger spent four weeks at the camp in the summer of 1989 to keep an eye on Hamilton's activities. She said that she took all her evidence, including photographs, to Strathclyde Police. There were no charges.

But Mrs Hagger said: "He was in his van one day and stopped me outside my house. He said he had been talking to the police. I told him he was a pervert and should not be in charge of boys. At that he produced this gun from under his seat and pointed it at me, saying it was loaded."

She said she contacted police but was told that Hamilton had been moving the gun and had a permit for it.

During his final days neighbours who knew Hamilton noticed a change in his character: the apparently shy man of few words who often ignored locals on the Braehead estate where he lived, suddenly became unusually talkative.

Helen Peters, who lives opposite the two-bedroom council flat in Kent Road where Hamilton lived, said she had spoken to the killer at some length only a few days before the massacre along with her boyfriend.

The couple were taking their puppy for a walk around 11pm when Hamilton emerged from the grounds of a local primary school. They shouted him over and asked for the address of a local gun club which they wanted for personal reasons. "He said he would be delighted to help, would give us an address and pop it through the letter box," said Ms Peters. "We wondered why he was coming through the school at that time of night. He was so talkative for a guy who rarely exchanges more than a few words and never mixes."

A day or so later she saw him leaving the house carrying what appeared to be a gun case. "I know what they look like. We know he kept guns. He bragged to us about it."

The fascination with guns appears to date back almost as far as his obsession with youth clubs. The family who bought his failed woodwork and DIY shop in Cowane Road

in the mid-1980s reported finding gun pellets at the rear of the premises.

"It was a terrible mess when we took over. There wasn't a ceiling and there were wires all over the place," said Graham Hilder yesterday. "Only a room at the back, which looked like he had set up a mini gymnasium, was clean. It looked like he had used some of the back of the shop for target practice. There were gun pellets lying on the floor and he had a board for targets which he took away when he left."

The president of Stirling Rifle and Pistol Club, George Smith, confirmed that Hamilton had been a member since at least 1987. "He was an infrequent visitor to the Whitestone Rifle Range where we do target practice."

"He was always very courteous but didn't have much to say for himself. How do you know when someone is going to flip their lid and do something like this? From what I saw he was a pretty good shot and like a lot of members had semi-automatic pistols and kept them at home."

Other gun clubs were less well disposed towards him. Raymond Reid, secretary of the Callander Gun Club, yesterday confirmed that they had turned down his application for membership this year. "It's quite common practice to be a member of more than one gun club but I knew of his involvement with the Scout movement and the youth clubs of his own founding," Mr Reid said.

Hamilton, he said, had owned two nine millimetre semi-automatic pistols, one of them a Browning, a .357

"I can't live with this. I can't take it. I brought this monster into the world."

— Thomas Watt, Hamilton's father

"He used to say to me 'You can come around and see my gun'. I thought he was a right weirdo."

— Scott Edgar, aged 15, who attended Hamilton's clubs

"I told him that as far as I was concerned he was a pervert and should not be in charge of boys. At that he produced this gun and pointed it at me, saying it was loaded."

— Doreen Hagger, mother of boy who attended Hamilton's 1989 summer camp

"He was a sad guy, completely isolated and obsessed with young boys."

— Photo-journalist who visited Hamilton's house

"We know he kept guns. He bragged to us about it."

— Helen Peters, who lives opposite Hamilton's home.

"He was very secretive. You never saw him."

— Robert Ure, a neighbour

Thomas Hamilton . . . 'He seemed quite normal. Whenever we dealt with him there were no problems.' But all the time he was raging

allow the Dunblane Rovers to meet in the high school in 1983 — a decision that the ombudsman ruled was wrong in the following year — Hamilton approached Fife regional council on behalf of what he called the Boys Sport Clubs Group Committee.

Fife let him the gym in two schools in the area between 1986 and 1992 for weekly sessions of five-a-side football and gymnastics for boys aged eight to 11. The clubs were monitored, said the council's spokeswoman, and they had no cause for concern. But in 1982, the council heard of complaints from parents over a summer camp that Hamilton had held in Dunblane.

"He seemed to get on with everybody that I know of. I never thought for one minute that he'd do anything like that."

Agnes Hamilton, the killer's mother



"I know that sexual child abuse must be identified and the abusers rooted out as a matter of national priority and this, in concept, is wholeheartedly supported by the general public."

In another letter to parents last August, Hamilton referred to persistent rumours about him circulating in Dunblane. "I am writing to briefly explain matters and dispel any myths and gossip."

He was clearly unconvincing in his attempts. Doreen Hagger, aged 40, whose son had attended his camp, confronted Hamilton after she discovered that the boys were forced to run around naked,

and were stripped and thrown into the freezing loch.

Mrs Hagger spent four weeks at the camp in the summer of 1989 to keep an eye on Hamilton's activities. She said that she took all her evidence, including photographs, to Strathclyde Police. There were no charges.

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News in brief

Government denies bypass cash hitch

THE Highways Agency yesterday dismissed press claims that road builders may not bid for the main construction work on the £100 million Newbury bypass because the Government cannot afford to pay for it all at once.

Editor for leftwing journal

IAN Hargreaves, aged 44, former editor of the Independent, was confirmed yesterday as the new editor of the New Statesman.

Pilot 'a public nuisance'

A SHOW-OFF RAF pilot who buzzed the Kent village of Staple in his Hawk jet trainer was yesterday branded a public nuisance by a military court.

Flight Lieutenant Nick Paine, aged 38, was found guilty by a court martial at RAF Leeming, North Yorkshire, where he serves with 100 Squadron, of causing unnecessary nuisance to his home village after a display at nearby RAF Manston last June.

BBC drama chief quits

CHARLES Denton, who presided over the renaissance of BBC TV's drama output, yesterday said he was stepping down after three years.

Shape of the nineties

NINETIES woman is expanding her waistline along with her professional horizons, according to yesterday's Cosmopolitan.



An already impeccably groomed contestant gets the finishing touch at Cruft's dog show, which began at Birmingham's National Exhibition Centre yesterday

Labour rebellion over terrorism law

Patrick Wintour, Chief Political Correspondent

TONY BLAIR suffered one of his biggest rebellions since becoming Labour Party leader when 25 Labour MPs, including two former shadow Northern Ireland ministers, defied the whip and opposed the renewal of the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

party to abstain, ending 14 years of outright opposition to the act. Voting was 223 to 28, a Government majority of 195.

Labour leadership of moral cowardice for not having the courage of their convictions and calling for an outright vote in favour of the PTA.

His abandonment of the bipartisan tone on Ireland angered Mr Straw who said afterwards: "Thank God Mr Howard has been kept away from the peace process because if he had not, it would never have got under way."

dependent judicial inquiry into the future of anti-terrorism laws. In an attempt to reduce last night's rebellion, Mr Straw attacked the continuing use of exclusion orders and the detention for as long as seven days without judicial review.

tency and sought to undercut Mr Straw's explanation for Labour's shift. He said Lord Lloyd's review had no relevance to yesterday's renewal of the PTA orders since its findings would only be introduced "if and when there is a permanent peace in Northern Ireland".

After two years of abortive attempts to reach a deal with the Government on the PTA, Mr Straw announced a fortnight ago that Labour would abstain on the act because the Government had set up an in-

defunct IRA ceasefire. Mr Howard had announced that a review would be completed by the autumn by Lord Lloyd of Berwick. But Mr Howard accused Labour of inconsis-

tenaciousness. The 25 Labour rebels were: Diane Abbott, John Aislabie, Harry Barnes, Tony Benn, Andrew Burt, Dermot Conboy, Harry Cohen, Terry Davis, William Ewart, Maria Fyfe, Bernie Grant, Helen Jackson, Lynne Jones, Ken Livingstone, Eddie Loyden, Kevin McNamara, John Mann, Bill Mitchell, Chris Mullin, Brian Souter, Alan Sutherland, Dennis Skinner, Roger Stott, Tollys for the "no" were Labour's Max Madden and Jeremy Corbyn.



Department of Trade and Industry

Major vows crackdown on foreign 'activists'

Ian Black and Richard Norton-Taylor

THE Government is to crack down on foreign terrorism in the UK. It does not use Britain to promote violence abroad or even foster dissent, John Major pledged yesterday.

which creates a climate in which terrorism can flourish. Clearly influenced by the case of Muhammad al-Masri, the Saudi Arabian Islamist, the Government has tried but so far failed to deport to Dominica — he said: "If people... use the UK as a base from which to conduct their own particular activities against another government, particularly a friendly government, then that is a matter we have to look at very carefully."

charged or convicted of offences in their own country. Whitehall acknowledges that extending the conspiracy laws to activities outside Britain is a highly sensitive political question which also goes to the heart of extra-territorial jurisdiction — an issue on which Britain and other European Union countries have often clashed with the United States.

Speaking after returning from Wednesday's Middle East summit of peace-makers in the Eilat, the Prime Minister said new laws could be introduced to curb terrorist or related activity, though there would have to be firm evidence of wrongdoing. But he admitted the issue was delicate.

The Home Office is already conducting a review of conspiracy and incitement laws to see if they could be extended to offences committed outside Britain. A spokesman said yesterday that the review would be completed by the summer.

It is already an offence under the Prevention of Terrorism Act to raise funds for terrorist activities outside Britain. However, the prosecution has to prove that organisations here know their funds were being used for terrorist activities.

In remarks which are likely to cause concern about civil liberties, he told BBC Radio: "It may be that the time has come to look at the activities of those who actively conspire to commit terrorist acts but also those who from safe havens abroad foster dissent elsewhere in a way

The Government has been under pressure from a number of countries — including France, Algeria, Egypt and Saudi Arabia — to take tougher action against political exiles and asylum-seekers

under the Prevention of Terrorism Act to raise funds for terrorist activities outside Britain. However, the prosecution has to prove that organisations here know their funds were being used for terrorist activities.

The need to get evidence reflects Whitehall's cautious reaction to last week's decision by the Charity Commissioners — under Foreign Office pressure — to freeze the assets of Interpal, the London-based Palestinian Relief and Development Fund.

Leader comment, page 8

Duel over earldom ends well for young pretender

David Pallister on a family feud over succession to the earldom of Selkirk



Hamilton, and himself became the 3rd duke. He resigned the earldom but it was granted to one of his sons in 1688.

SIR Malcolm Rognvald James of Edinglight, Lord Lyon King of Arms, handed down his judgment yesterday and a 17-year-old youth was £260,000 the richer.

And so the Selkirks and the Douglases prospered. Alasdair Douglas-Hamilton thought he had it in the pot. He was listed in Debreit's and Burke's as the heir apparent. And a letter from Sir Malcolm's father, Lord Lyon, seemed to confirm his succession would be trouble free.

But it was not to be. And besides losing the legacy and the right to sit in the House of Lords he had expenses granted against him.

So ended a fiendishly complicated, 14-month legal battle over the Scottish earldom of Selkirk.

Asked what effect the case had had on the family, he replied: "It doesn't help matters." Of his relationship with Lord James, he said: "I seldom see him so that is academic." Lord James was not present.

There were two contenders: Lord James Douglas-Hamilton, the Scottish Office minister, and his cousin, Alasdair Douglas-Hamilton, a lawyer. But in November 1994 Lord James's uncle, the 10th earl, died without male heirs and in order to avoid a by-election in his marginal Edinburgh West constituency, Lord James renounced his claims.

Before the Court of the Lord Lyon, the arbiter of matters titular in Scotland, however, he pressed the claim on behalf of his son, John Andrew.

In 1646 Charles I granted the earldom to his cousin, 12-year-old William Douglas, the younger brother of the premier Scottish peer, the Duke of Hamilton. There was a proviso that the two titles be kept separate. But William went on to marry Anne, Duchess of

In finding for Lord James and making John the heir apparent, Sir Malcolm said the minister could not use the arms or the title in his lifetime.

The legal problem centred on a little Latin written over 300 years ago.

Page 9

Advertisement for SMART (Small Manufacturers Awards and Recognition in Trade) featuring a man working at a desk with a computer monitor. Text: "Imagine what he could have achieved with the right financial backing."

Advertisement for SMART (Small Manufacturers Awards and Recognition in Trade) with contact information and a closing date of 15th April 1996. Text: "For an entry form, phone 0990 440 440."

Eviction stop drug

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Mother must quit home where partner sold heroin

Evictions move to stop drug dealing

James Meikle, Community Affairs Editor

COUNCIL chiefs will step up moves to stop drug dealing on housing estates after winning an eviction order against a mother whose partner was convicted of supplying heroin from her home.

The woman, two of whose children, aged six and 14, live with her in Cramlington, near Blyth, Northumberland, has been given a month to leave.

Eviction proceedings are being pursued against other tenants in an area where 13 people have died from drug abuse in three years.

Last year, the woman's partner was jailed by Newcastle crown court for four years. She lost her appeal against eviction at North Shields county court this week.

Deirdre Campbell, a member of Blyth Valley council, said: "As far as we know we are the first council in the country to take this step. This court ruling is a victory for us and will send out a warning shot to other people misusing their properties."

"The problems related to drugs in this town are horrendous. People get woken up at all hours of the night and day by abusers looking for suppliers on their estates and they bring crime with them."

Dave Stephens, leader of the council when the changes to tenancy agreements were made, said: "I hope the message gets out to all drug pushers they are risking losing their homes."

He added: "It took time to get the scheme off the ground because we had to inform tenants what we were doing. Anyone who breaks the

rules is at risk of losing their home. We don't care if these are women with children because all they are doing is peddling death... They are the ones who break the rules so they cannot be classed as homeless because they have deliberately chosen to lose their homes."

Home Office junior minister Tom Sackville has praised the council for specifying that drug dealing would be treated as a breach of the tenancy agreement.

Other authorities have made similar moves although the more general threat of eviction for allowing homes to be used "for illegal purposes" has existed for years.

Councils have also stepped up action against racists, sometimes by using clauses prohibiting tenants or others sharing or visiting their home from threatening neighbours.

Class training backed

Donald MacLeod, Education Correspondent

THE Government's scheme to train teachers in the classroom instead of colleges or universities today receives a boost from a survey of experienced teachers — to the embarrassment of the union which commissioned it.

Like other unions, the Association of Teachers and Lecturers has criticised the move to school-based training as an extra burden on staff.

But Warwick university researchers found teachers involved in the programme were extremely positive de-

spite the increased workload. They welcomed the fresh ideas and energy student teachers brought to the classroom, felt their own professional development had been enhanced and expressed increased job satisfaction.

The School-Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT) scheme, now in its second year, places graduate trainees in a secondary school or group of schools for a year under the supervision of existing staff, rather than being taught at a college or university and going into schools for teaching practice.

The scheme was criticised by the Office for Standards in Education in its first year. But a

teacher said: "It kept me on my toes, got me out of the rut I was in... Pupils liked the extra attention and the enthusiasm of the students."

The teachers found guiding student teachers was time-consuming. Peter Smith, the union's general secretary, said the Government could not continue to "milk teachers' goodwill at the expense of adequate funding".

Anthea Millett, chief executive of the Teacher Training Agency, hoped more schools would become involved. "It is an extremely demanding task but it not only provides quality training but motivates teachers and gives pupils more opportunities."

Police say killer held woman under water

A WOMAN murdered while she was walking her two dogs was probably dragged into a river and held under water by her killer until she drowned, forensic tests showed yesterday.

As police stepped up their search for witnesses, they disclosed new details of the attack on Karen Skipper, a 34-year-old divorcee.

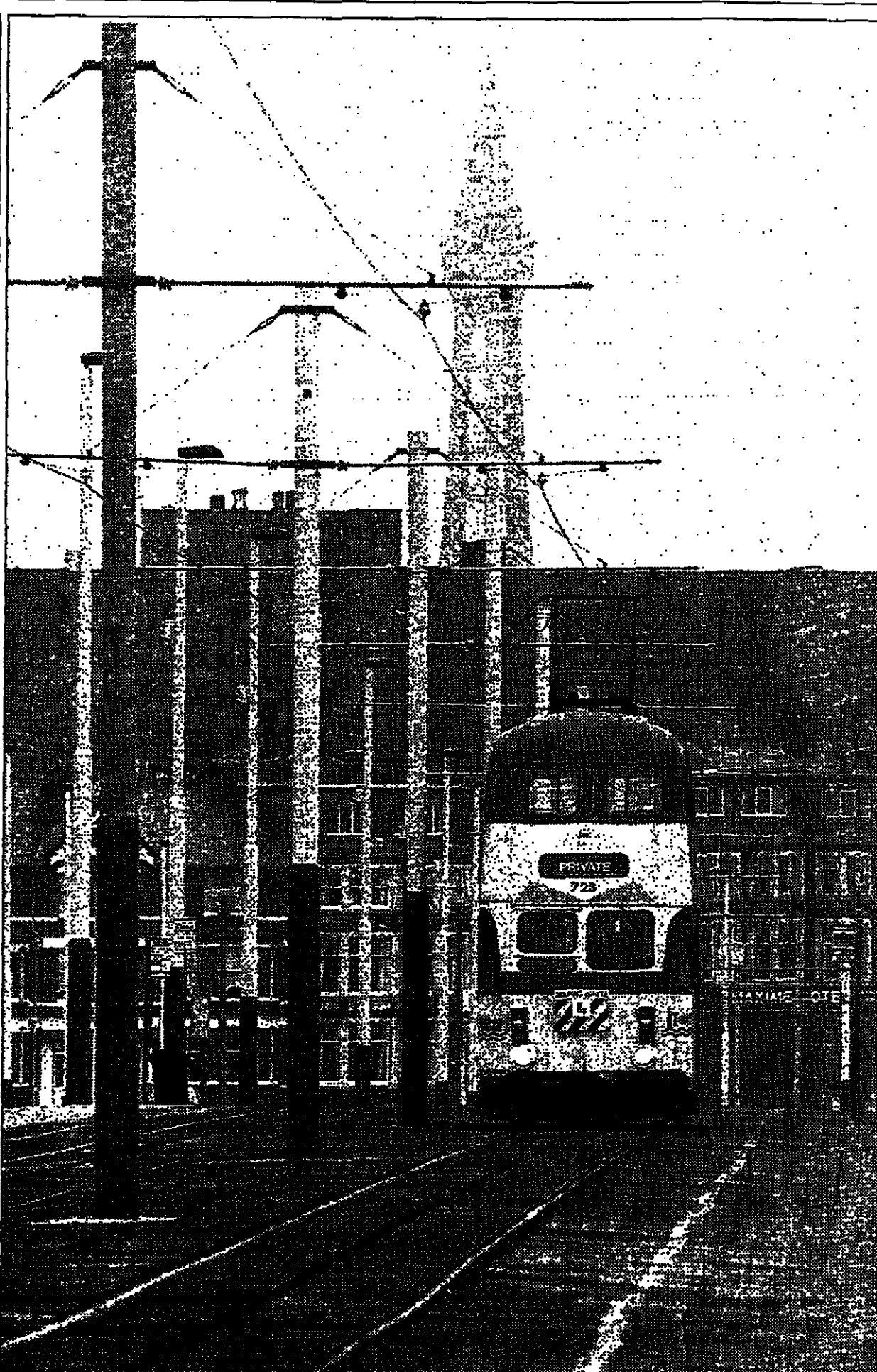
Detective Superintendent Terry Frington, leading the investigation, said scratches

on Mrs Skipper's legs indicated she was first dragged through brambles before being forced into the River Ely at Carduf. "Her hands were bound behind her back and she would have been helpless to do anything about it. A horrific picture is emerging of how she met her death."

The investigation team of 30 officers issued a description of a teenage angler in a red baseball cap who may

have witnessed something suspicious as he fished close by at around 3am last Sunday. Two men and a woman seen chatting just before midnight near where Mrs Skipper lived, are also being sought in case they have vital information.

Officers with posters and questionnaires are to start a three-day exercise today to jog the memories of residents living Birdies Lane Fields where the murder took place.



A tram on Britain's most famous seaside route, along the coast from Blackpool to Fleetwood, which could be truncated by a funding row between councils. Blackpool is demanding £40,000 a year from neighbouring Wyre council for maintenance work to avoid the line terminating at Thornton. PHOTOGRAPH DENIS THORPE

Cocaine craving 'trigger' targeted

Tim Radford, Science Editor

SCIENTISTS at Yale University believe they may have found the brain chemicals that control cocaine addiction — offering hope of blocking the craving or tricking addicts into feeling gratification without the drug.

The approach might also apply to the opiates — but so far the brain chemicals involved have only been tested on laboratory rats.

The news, revealed today in the US journal Science, comes only a few months after scientists at La Jolla, California, revealed they had made a form of cocaine without any kick to it, but which might help immunise addicts. The catch, once again, is that it has only been tested on rats.

But David Self and three colleagues at Yale school of medicine in New Haven, Connecticut, claim they have proved that "cocaine seeking behaviour", or addiction, is operated by two distinct "dopamine receptor agonists" in the brain.

However, dopamine is involved in numerous brain functions, so sorting out what it is that makes addicts relapse and seek cocaine was not simple. They found, though, that one agonist triggered relapse and another inhibited it.

The finding suggested it might be possible to devise some chemical to block craving and help addicts get off the drug.

But the Yale researchers believe there is still a long way to go, as dopamine and other companion substances are important in the brain's daily business. Others agree.

"They have global effects throughout the brain and dopamine is involved in muscular contractions, Parkinson's disease and so on," Dick Daffers, of the University of Glasgow, said yesterday. "So the problem is getting things specific enough to knock out what you want to knock out and leave other systems intact."

He added: "It may very well be an 'antagonist' that keeps people off cocaine. But it may stop them enjoying anything — even something as simple as rock music."

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Dressed not to kill... A member of Russia's Presidential Regiment helps a comrade with his new \$600 uniform, based on an old imperial design. PHOTOGRAPH: JAMES HILL

Army elite keep KGB blue in imperial makeover

James Meek in Moscow finds the peacocks of the presidential guard have nowhere to strut since Lenin's tomb duty was axed

RESPLENDENT in finery of teal green, royal blue, gold and brass, the young graduate of Moscow's top military academy had the polished ease of a man whose martial calling was a world away from the mud and blood of Chechnya or Tajikistan.

"All of us serve exclusively in the Kremlin," said Senior Lieutenant Vladimir Kaminsky, aged 23. "I'm not an officer of the Russian army. I'm an officer of the Presidential Regiment. It's a different thing altogether."

Until recently, this elite unit goose-stepped before the world as the symbol of Soviet constancy, the honour guard on Lenin's tomb in Red Square. Now it has been refitted with uniforms in the style of the pre-revolutionary imperial army and serves in Boris Yeltsin's personal retinue.

The creation of the guard is part of an effort by Mr Yeltsin's image-makers to strengthen the legitimacy of the new order by associating the president with symbols of Russia's imperial, Orthodox past.

The new uniforms, which cost about \$600 each, were designed by a military book illustrator and monarchist, Oleg Parkhayev. Based on the

1907 dress of Russian imperial guardsmen, they are a sharp break with Soviet traditions, although Mr Parkhayev said he chose the royal blue of the breastcloth because it was "the traditional colour of the KGB", to which the unit once belonged.

"For me this is a symbol of the overcoming of the rupture of 1917, the breach which should never have happened," he said. "It's not retrograde, it's not about forgetting that this is the end of the 20th century and trying to return to the beginning. It's a reminder that Russia did not begin in 1917."

Assembling the costume was as much a showbiz affair as a military matter. The first versions were made up by the Bolshoi Theatre's costume workshop, and the head-dresses by the proprietor of a St Petersburg wax museum.

Lt Kaminsky admitted that his unit was devastated when the guard of honour was withdrawn from Lenin's tomb and the wooden mock-up they used to practise their goose-step vanished from within the Kremlin walls.

"The soldiers were very upset of course. All of us were. It was a very honourable duty."

The new uniform was a boost to morale, but no new ceremony has been invented yet to give them a public role. Unlike other post-communist honour guards, such as the fancifully costumed Czech

Cyprus riot as bishops try priest

Chris Drake in Nicosia

MORE than 70 people were injured yesterday as thousands of stone-throwing demonstrators fought pitched battles with Cypriot riot police outside the Archbishop's Palace in Nicosia, where the island's bishops were trying a priest suspended on immorality charges.

Police fired tear gas and made baton charges to stop the crowd of about 3,000 supporters of the priest, Archimandrite Pangeatios Meraclis, from storming the palace, which was cordoned off with barbed wire. Eight protesters were arrested.

A hospital spokeswoman said 74 people — civilians and police — were treated in hospital. Others were treated on the spot by ambulancemen.

The crowd, which demanded to be allowed to give evidence, hurled stones, wooden posts and parts of the barbed wire barricades at the police. Some officers threw stones back.

The demonstrators shouted "pigs, murderers" at the police, but saved their real anger for the Greek Orthodox Church leader, Archbishop Charystomos, whom he appeared briefly at a window. "You are an anti-Christ, an adulterer, the son of a whore," they screamed.

Inside the palace, the bishops convened a second meeting of the Holy Synod to hear testimony on the charges against the priest.

The meeting ended without a verdict. A taxi driver and a massage parlour owner have already testified against him.

Last night, police said security had been tightened around the archbishop after anonymous

tips that there were plans to harm him.

Archimandrite Meraclis, aged 39, has been elected as a bishop by a big majority of people in the north-western Morphou area, but the archbishop refused to enthronise him, citing "moral obstacles".

The decision has turned him into a hero. He is widely regarded as a "man of the people", and his simple lifestyle contrasts sharply with that of other Cypriot church figures who have become deeply involved in big business and multi-million pound tourism projects.

The archbishop is seen as autocratic, out of touch with his flock, and more concerned with exercising his considerable power to influence politicians and businessmen than dealing with the religious needs of Cypriots.

He wanted the accused priest defrocked and has accused him of being a homosexual, a serious slur in such a conservative country. Homosexuality is no longer a crime in Cyprus.

Asked why he thought the priest had such strong support, he said it was because there were so many homosexuals in Cyprus, a statement that shocked the public.

He added: "It is my duty, till death if necessary, to take any measures necessary to protect the honour of the church."

The priest, who was smuggled out of the palace through a back-door at the end of the one-hour meeting, was ordered to answer the charges in writing within five days. He did not give details of the charges, but has denied any impropriety.

His supporters are expected to return in force when he goes back to the palace with his response.

News in brief

Seven killed in Bahrain attack

SEVEN people believed to be Asians were killed early yesterday when masked men threw petrol bombs at a restaurant in the Gulf island state of Bahrain, the official Gulf News Agency reported.

Witnesses said five masked men poured petrol at the entrance to the restaurant in Sitra district to prevent those inside from escaping, according to an interior ministry official. — Reuter.

Fury as Britain blocks scrutiny of Europol

BRITAIN was accused yesterday of obstructing the European war against drugs and organised crime by its continued blocking of the inauguration of Europol, the cross-border police intelligence gathering unit.

Other European Parliament member states promised to redouble their efforts to get round the Government's lone opposition to the use of the European Court of Justice to adjudicate in disputes about the unit.

Britain's obstruction of ECJ involvement has delayed the unit's operations for more than a year.

One Christian Democrat MEP, Viviane Reding of Luxembourg, told MEPs: "How much longer will we accept Britain's opt-out or put up with its negative attitude? One single member state is denying European citizens their rights."

The Government is prepared to take its hostility to the court to the extent of frustrating Europol, though it agrees the unit could be vital in fighting organised crime.

Both the Government and Labour contend that justice and home affairs are issues for member states to resolve independently. They deny that ECJ involvement would make Interpol more accountable or transparent.

Britain was one of the first EU states to ratify the convention setting up Europol, but recent ECJ decisions against Britain on fishing rights and limits to working hours have hardened the Government's attitude. The court has pointed out that Britain has a better record than almost any other member state in appearances before the court — fewer than 30 in 20 years, compared with 70 for Luxembourg and 300 for Italy.

Troops rush in

Army reinforcements have rushed to Irian Jaya after violent demonstrations at a United States mine killed three people and left at least 15 injured, Indonesian officials said yesterday.

Mafia charges

Almost the entire leadership of the Detroit mafia has been indicted by a federal grand jury on 25 different charges, the United States attorney general, Janet Reno, announced yesterday. — AP.

Burundi deaths

Two priests and a nun were killed when 200 people attacked a seminary in northern Burundi, state-run radio said yesterday. — Reuter.

Unmarked graves

As many as 3,200 illegal immigrants died along the Texas-Mexico border between 1994 and 1994, most by drowning in the swift waters of the Rio Grande, according to a study released yesterday. Most were never identified. — Reuter.

Nuclear fallout

French wine exporters yesterday blamed French nuclear testing in the south Pacific for preventing 1995 from being a record year. They said boycotts — especially in Scandinavia, the Netherlands and Canada — knocked 750 million francs (\$97.5 million) off expected sales. — Reuter.

Mixed review for EU royalties plan

Julie Wolf in Brussels

THE European Commission came to the aid of artists throughout the European Union — from the famous to the struggling — yesterday with proposals to ensure that they receive royalties when their works are resold.

But auction houses in London warned that the plan would drive business to New York, where there are no royalties for the resale of works of art. The British government is expected to oppose the proposal, which is based on French practice.

The commission said the proposed legislation, which needs the approval of ministers, was aimed at ensuring artists get the same treatment in all EU countries.

Britain, Ireland, Austria and the Netherlands have no provision for artists or their heirs to receive royalties when works are resold through an agent or at auction. In other EU states the royalty systems vary widely and are not always applied.

In this way, a British artist such as David Hockney receives resale royalties when one of his paintings is sold in Paris, while the estate of Matisse earns nothing when one of his works is auctioned in London, the commission said.

"This proposal will make a major contribution to promoting fine art within the European Union while removing existing distortions in the marketplace," Mario Monti, the EU's internal market commissioner, said.

His comments reflect concern in France and other EU countries that London's art market benefits unfairly because resale royalties are not paid in Britain.

But Anthony Browne of Christie's in London said the proposal would undermine Europe's art market. "It's not going to benefit Paris — it will benefit New York," he said. "Here again we see that the EU is more interested in internal harmonisation than whether a European market competes outside the EU."

Although Christie's itself would not suffer, because it has a strong business in New York, it would become difficult to attract large sales to Europe.

The commission proposes that artists should receive between 2 and 4 per cent of the price of works resold for more than 1,000 euros (\$900). The royalty should be payable for 70 years after the artist's death.

European snub for US drive to arm Bosnian federation army

Chris Nuttall in Ankara

AN AMERICAN-led drive to start arming the Bosnian federation army has blown a new hole in the Clinton administration's policy of not supplying arms to the warring sides in the region, particularly after Nato leaves. Critics say the policy is a sop to Congress.

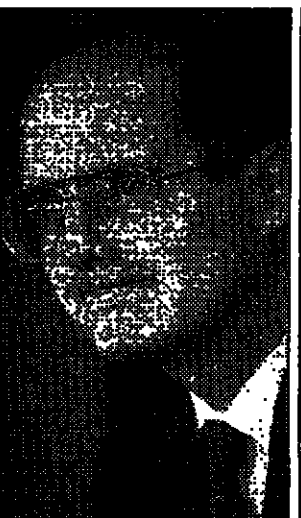
More than 20 countries will attend the one-day meeting in Ankara, to be co-chaired by the US deputy secretary of state, Strobe Talbott.

The US is worried because Islamic revolutionaries from Iran are already giving their own form of training in Bosnia.

In contrast to the Europeans, pro-Western Muslim countries appear to be fully behind the US initiative. Among those promising to attend, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait and Brunei are expected to give money, and Egypt, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Malaysia and Indonesia may offer equipment or training.

Italy, Germany and the Netherlands were the only west European countries to accept the invitation by yesterday. But Britain later announced it would send a Foreign Office official.

A study by the US Institute of Defence Analysis, commissioned by the Pentagon, estimated that \$800 million worth



Strobe Talbott: Main man at donors' conference

of equipment was needed to meet any offensive in the region's difficult terrain. It also recommended an active-duty force of 55,000.

UN Security Council resolutions allow light arms to be supplied to Bosnia from March 19 — that is, 90 days after the Paris agreement sealing the Dayton accords.

The US wants to begin training and equipping the Bosnians within two to four weeks. The US study said

communications equipment, rifles, mortars and engineering material would be needed first.

Heavy weapons, allowed after 180 days, should include artillery, armoured personnel carriers and 45 tanks for a rapid-reaction brigade, it said. Warplanes were ruled out as too threatening and too expensive.

"We believe that a stable military balance is required to guarantee that war does not return after I-For departs from Bosnia," James Parklew, the US special representative for military stabilisation in the Balkans, told an Ankara news conference. "This stable balance is also essential to establish conditions for peaceful reconstruction to take place inside Bosnia."

The programme would offset the Bosnian Serbs' advantages in heavy weapons, logistics, training and military equipment.

While European countries argue that the scheme will undermine disarmament efforts, Mr Parklew insisted that it went hand in hand with arms control negotiations.

"All arms are not going to be removed from Bosnia," he said.

"There will still be a capacity to resume the fighting. But an effective military balance will support all of the people in Bosnia."



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Wargames bring democracy salvo from Taiwan

Andrew Higgins in the Pescadores

China 'will not attack'

THE message was clear from his white golfing shoes. Visiting the front line of a confrontation that has left the world holding its breath, President Lee Teng-hui — with the defiant nonchalance of a weekend golfer — spent a day in the sun yesterday, taunting Chinese battleships and warplanes firing live ammunition a few dozen miles away.

"No one here is scared. In this place everybody has the spirit of struggle. They are the ones who are scared, scared to death," declared Mr Lee, aged 73, on his first visit to Taiwanese islands near the middle of the Taiwan Strait since China began test lobbing ballistic missiles overhead and practising bombing runs in the sea to the south.

Only 40 miles away the People's Liberation Army held its third day of live-fire wargames. The Taiwanese defence ministry reported 20 groups of Chinese warplanes and 40 ships hurling missiles and bombs in a mock combat zone that has disrupted commercial air and sea traffic through one of the world's busiest arteries.

Mr Lee's studied calm, now the main theme of his campaign in Taiwan's first democratic presidential election on March 23, contrasted with the grim-faced vigilance of the bodyguards with Armalite rifles.

Taiwan's military also showed its teeth. Fighters roared overhead as Mr Lee arrived for a day of electioneering, and soldiers stepped up armed patrols of sandbagged military camps around Matsu, capital of the Pescadores.

"We have achieved great successes, especially in the economy. Even the mainland is using Taiwan as an example," Mr Lee, dressed in a windbreaker and turtleneck shirt, told a meeting of besuited businessmen.

"Powell drives away a lot of people in the pro-life movement and makes people believe Dole is not as conservative as we think he is," said Lyn Nofziger, the Reagan lobbyist recruited as co-chairman of the Dole campaign.

"Powell is totally untested. We have no idea what he will say under political pressures, which are a whole lot different from other pressures."

theorists in Beijing. Dressed in purple jackets with dollops of gold braid, the band welcomed Mr Lee to a bridge-opening ceremony with the navy's battle song.

Above a makeshift shelter erected for the flag-waving but mostly geriatric supporters, a statue of Chiang Kai-shek gazed out towards the Chinese mainland he vowed to reconquer by force, but which Taiwan now says it wants to subvert by subtler means.

"This bridge can take the weight of a tank," said James Song, a grandee of Mr Lee's ruling Kuomintang Party, "but that tank to defend our country, not to do what tanks did in Tiananmen Square."

Schoing General Douglas MacArthur's reference to Taiwan, at the height of Sino-US antagonism during the Korean war, as an "unsinkable aircraft carrier", he said: "Taiwan is an unsinkable cruiser. Its name is freedom and democracy."

The People's Daily, official organ of the Chinese Communist Party, accused Washington of using Taiwan as a pawn to keep Beijing in check.

In a visit to a 400-year-old temple honouring Matsu, the patron goddess of fishermen and Taiwan's most popular deity, Mr Lee cast himself as a modern-day saviour.

"Matsu will never abandon the people. Neither will I. Next week you are going to show you live in a democratic Taiwan. You must elect a president who is responsible, who knows how to govern, and not someone who is going to do silly things."



Pragmatist... The Republican presidential aspirant Senator Robert Dole at work on the balcony outside his Capitol Hill office

PHOTOGRAPH RUTH FREEMAN

Right sour at Dole courtship of Powell

Martin Walker in Washington

RETIRED general Colin Powell was being dragged back into the American presidential fray yesterday, despite his repeated refusal to run, as Republicans responded to opinion polls suggesting that putting him forward as vice-president was their only chance of topping Bill Clinton in November.

Conservatives and the religious right began scrambling to shoot down Senator Robert Dole's new attempt to recruit Gen Powell — who is relatively liberal and pro-abortion — as his vice-presidential nominee. Just as they

mobilised last autumn to stop Gen Powell running for the presidency, they warned that he would split the party and guarantee President Clinton's re-election.

"Since Bob Dole is viewed as coming from the moderate-to-pragmatic wing of the party, the most helpful pick for him would be a solid, pro-life conservative," Ralph Reed, director of the Christian Coalition, said.

In private, the Coalition is calling on Mr Dole to repay its crucial backing for him in the southern states. It has said any candidate who approves abortion is "unacceptable".

The rightwing Pat Buchanan warned that Gen Powell would provoke a battle royal at the Republican convention,

and old Ronald Reagan loyalists warned that opting for the general would be a leap into the unknown.

"Why should conservatives support a vice-presidential nominee, Mr Powell, who first joined the Republican party only three months ago, who is strongly pro-abortion, who believes in affirmative action, who declares himself a Rockefeller Republican?" Mr Buchanan said.

"If Bob Dole sets a course to go back to Rockefeller Republicanism, he is going to have a battle at the convention."

The Democrats shook their heads in gleeful disbelief as the Republicans continued to squabble, despite Mr Dole's progress towards the nomination. "It's deathwish time

whenever the Republicans go to war over abortion," James Carville, President Clinton's strategist, said. "They know it, but they can't help themselves."

Gen Powell's support of abortion rights for women and affirmative action for minorities makes him unacceptable to cultural conservatives. But opinion polls and senior Republicans such as former president George Bush all agree with Mr Dole's fear that he may not be able to defeat Mr Clinton without the hugely popular and respected general on his ticket.

The vice-presidential mating dance is taking a curiously ritualised form, in which Mr Dole does not quite make an open appeal and Gen

Powell does not respond in person.

"He has been a soldier all his life, and he has responded whenever his country needed him, and I believe if anyone went to General Powell and laid out a case that duty and the country called, he would suit up again," Mr Dole said after his sweeping victory in this week's Super-Tuesday primaries. "I may be totally wrong."

It was then left to Gen Powell's friends to reply. "The door is locked, sealed and bolted," said Ken Duberstein, a former chief of staff in the Reagan White House who is Gen Powell's closest political adviser.

"The door is slammed shut. He said it in November.

He meant what he said."

The Republicans tried to put on a show of unity yesterday, when Steve Forbes formally withdrew from the presidential race and endorsed Mr Dole. Beneath the facade, the party is riven by an ideological split, of which Gen Powell has become the symbol.

"Powell drives away a lot of people in the pro-life movement and makes people believe Dole is not as conservative as we think he is," said Lyn Nofziger, the Reagan lobbyist recruited as co-chairman of the Dole campaign.

"Powell is totally untested. We have no idea what he will say under political pressures, which are a whole lot different from other pressures."

News in brief

Jewish-born cardinal joins Immortals

FIFTY years after being hunted by French police because of his Jewish origins, the archbishop of Paris, Cardinal Jean-Marie Lustiger, was yesterday admitted to the Académie Française, the Establishment's inner circle, writes Paul Webster in Paris.

The cardinal, aged 69, is a favourite to succeed the ailing Pope Jean-Paul, a promotion that could make him one of the few Jewish-born leaders

of the Catholic Church. Yesterday's ceremony, in which drummers heralded his joining the 39 other academic "immortals", coincided with revelations about his conversion to Catholicism in 1942.

The son of a Polish immigrant and grandson of a rabbi, the future cardinal was converted while in hiding in Orleans, just before his mother was deported and gassed in Auschwitz. His

father, who tried to force him to renounce his baptism, was not reconciled until his son became head of the French Catholic Church in 1981, according to the cardinal's biographer, Robert Serron.

Afghan rivals join forces

AFGHANISTAN'S embattled president, Burhanuddin Rabbani, has won the backing of one of his main rivals, Western diplomats said yesterday, predicting that the switch in loyalties would intensify the country's 16-year civil war, writes Gerald Bourke in Islamabad.

Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, long seen as the mujahedin faction leader most bitterly opposed to Mr Rabbani, has pledged to support his forces fighting the Islamic Taliban militia on several fronts south of Kabul, the diplomats said.

Flush with funds from Mr Rabbani, Mr Hekmatyar has sent hundreds of fighters to the capital, and is recruiting more in neighbouring provinces, they said.

Western intelligence sources said Mr Hekmatyar could raise 12,000 men to support Mr Rabbani's Kabul garrison, which they estimate at up to 38,000-strong.

The Taliban militia has some 15,000 troops on the city's southern front, but it can call on substantial reinforcements.

Army 'killers' identified

SURVIVORS of a massacre of Tamils, including women and children, by rampaging government troops in eastern Sri Lanka have identified eight soldiers who carried out the killings, police said yesterday.

They were remanded pending further inquiries into the February 12 deaths of 24 villagers in the village of Kumarampuram in Trincomalee district, a police officer in the area said.

Twenty-six villagers were wounded in the attack.

Tamil politicians and some of the wounded accused government troops of going on a rampage after separatist Tamil Tiger guerrillas killed two soldiers earlier that day.

The rebels have stepped up attacks in the east after the loss of their northern Jaffna town stronghold to government forces last December.

Nineteen weapons, including four light machine-guns believed to have been used in the massacre, were sent for official analysis, the police officer said. He added that 97 soldiers took part in the identification parade. — Reuter.

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\$20,000	Annually	7.75%	Tax-free	\$2,500-\$9,999	Annually	4.55	3.64
\$25,000	Annually	7.75%	Tax-free	\$100,000 or more	Monthly	4.89**	3.91
\$30,000	Annually	7.75%	Tax-free	\$25,000-\$99,999	Monthly	4.79**	3.83
\$35,000	Annually	7.75%	Tax-free	\$10,000-\$24,999	Monthly	4.65**	3.72
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\$10,000-\$24,999	Annually	6.75	5.40	\$25,000-\$99,999	Annually	4.90	3.92
\$10,000-\$24,999	Annually	6.50	5.20	\$10,000-\$24,999	Annually	4.75	3.80
\$25,000 or more	Monthly	6.88**	5.50	\$5,000-\$9,999	Annually	4.55	3.64
\$10,000-\$24,999	Monthly	6.59**	5.24	\$100,000 or more	Monthly	5.27**	4.22
\$5,000-\$9,999	Monthly	6.31**	5.05	\$25,000-\$99,999	Monthly	4.79**	3.83
\$10,000-\$24,999	Monthly	6.03**	4.87	\$10,000-\$24,999	Monthly	4.65**	3.72
\$5,000-\$9,999	Monthly	5.75**	4.69	\$5,000-\$9,999	Monthly	4.46**	3.57

FOR INFORMATION: Investors in variable rate C&G accounts which are no longer available to new investors can replace their investment in a current C&G account at any time and without penalty.

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There are very few people behind the camera, which is the only place in this business that really matters, with both the aptitude for war reporting and the willingness to do it.

Martin Bell on Brian Hills

Obituary page 10

"I'm tickled pink"

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Guns kill, not just people

Serious gaps in firearms control need plugging

THE Prime Minister travels to Dunblane today. What can he offer the devastated Scottish community? At a dignified and impressive parliamentary question time yesterday, the Prime Minister rightly said he would be looking to see what help could be given to the injured and bereaved. Much counselling help is already to hand although history suggests that as the horror of the massacre recedes for the nation, the funds for the necessary long-term counselling and support services will fade too. There is, however, one front on which he could move, even before the public inquiry into Wednesday's mass killings announced yesterday reports. That is on gun control. Undoubtedly he will be pressed by the Dunblane community on this issue. Let him remember that one of the most therapeutic releases a devastated community can be given is the knowledge that moves will be made to prevent a repeat of their tragedy. Mr Major should signal his support for plugging the serious gaps in firearms control, which remain even after the tighter legislation that followed the 1987 Hungerford massacre.

British gun laws are among the tightest in the world, but that does not mean they can't be improved. Even more important than our laws was our anti-gun culture. Unlike the Americans, the British — with the exception of the traditional shooting community — disliked guns. Criminologists have shown that even armed robbers in the past were wary of them, frequently carrying unloaded weapons or guns loaded with blanks. The shotgun, a robber's favourite weapon in earlier decades, could not be more inaccurate. It was carried to control, not to kill. That culture has weakened over the last decade but could be reinforced by both legislative and regulatory initiatives.

The British gun lobby, which now

parrots the empty American slogan of "people not guns kill people", needs a robust reply. The reason why the American gun homicide rate is 150 times as high as the British is due to the open availability of guns in the US compared to the UK. The main reason why we have such a low proportion of homicides caused by guns — only 10 per cent of the total — is our tight gun controls. Tighter controls would reduce them even further. Of course some criminals would still get round the regulations and obtain firearms. But contrast the current controls which the police apply to their own disciplined members who apply to become firearms officers with the procedure for applications from the public for firearms certificates. Police officers are subjected to the most rigorous screening and psychological tests; members of the public are given much more perfunctory scrutiny. Only one per cent of applicants are refused. Currently, there are almost one million people licenced to hold a gun.

There are various loopholes to be closed. Individuals who join gun clubs do not need a personal firearms certificate yet membership gives them access to guns and ammunition. All club members should need a personal certificate. More important still, a much more rigorous vetting procedure is needed to identify unsuitable gun holders. John Stalker, the former Greater Manchester deputy chief constable, expressed concern yesterday at the readiness of crown courts to overrule chief constables' decisions to withhold a firearms certificate. That appeal procedure needs looking at too. But above all, the firearms consultative committee needs to go back to fundamentals and review the "right-to-own" policy. Why not insist on all handguns being held by gunclubs? No one should be allowed to take them home. That just might have stopped the Dunblane killer.

An empty summit of peacemakers

Too much talk about war, not enough about peace

THE photo was the message at Sharm el-Sheikh this week where one Israeli prime minister and 14 Arab leaders gathered at the beckoning of one US president. Bill Clinton's own officials did not gloss over the symbolic nature of the proceedings: such a large gathering was, they said, little more than "a big photo opportunity." Nor did Israel deny that Mr Clinton's call was more a summons than an invitation: the chance to take part in an occasion billed as "the summit of the peacemakers" was not something, said the Israeli spokesman, to be thrown into the wastepaper basket.

And the message beneath the photo? Electorally blessed are the peacemakers might be an appropriate caption. The mere fact of the meeting having taken place is calculated to improve the chances at least of Shimon Peres (and possibly of Mr Clinton). However empty the proceedings, they do go some way to convey the impression of an Arab world, or parts of it, conferring a measure of approval on Mr Peres and the peace process. With the latest polls showing that even Israeli youth is turning towards the Likud opposition, he certainly needs all the help he can get. Mr Peres's own contribution to the summit was geared to a domestic audience. He lectured the Palestinians on their "obligations" to crack down on their "murderous command centres" in their midst, and he identified Iran as the "spearhead" of terrorism in terms which most experts would firmly dis-

pute. Significantly the final statement avoided either issue. Instead it referred to the "current and pressing needs of the Palestinians" — an indirect reproach to Israel for the severity of its policy of blockading the West Bank and Gaza. The political reasons which have led Mr Peres to impose this new closure (modified only marginally on Wednesday) are evident. But none of the participants, including Mr Clinton, can honestly believe that this type of collective punishment does anything but sow the seeds for more bitterness and violence.

Yesterday in Jerusalem Mr Clinton committed \$100 million of funds for anti-terrorism technology designed to confer a more practical result on the summit. There is talk of overcoming traditional inter-agency suspicions to form a counter-terrorism working accord between Israel and the US, with more limited links to Jordan and the Palestinian Authority as a further objective. Some practical aid will no doubt be useful. Yasser Arafat himself has asked for such everyday (these days) necessities as bomb detectors and bomb-sniffing dogs. But it is pure illusion to suppose that an "anti-terror Interpol", if it could be achieved, would do more than trim the margins of the problem. The reasons why young men and women volunteer to blow themselves up will not be addressed by pieces of hi-tech equipment. It is a pity that the summit did not talk less about "waging war" on terrorism, and more about how to rekindle the mood for peace.

Beyond the political boundaries

Why the Sri Lankans have hit the cricket establishment for six

WHEN the West Indies won the first cricket World Cup in 1975, Sri Lanka were simply there to make up the numbers. Yet in Lahore on Sunday Sri Lanka will play Australia for the 1996 world title. For a country which was not even admitted to the Test cricket arena until 1982, Sri Lanka's progress in not much more than a decade is the stuff of legends. Fourteen years ago, England travelled unwillingly to Colombo, believing that such a match was beneath their strutting dignity. Today, England would travel just as unwillingly, mainly because the chances are that they would be soundly beaten by the better team.

Sri Lanka's emergence is no one day cricket wonder. They have been steadily accumulating victories over most of the long-established cricket nations in tests and limited overs games alike. And they have powered their way past supposedly superior op-

position — including England and India — to reach this World Cup final. Their victims still find it hard to accept, as English sulks and the hapless riots in Calcutta on Wednesday showed, but Sri Lanka are now one of the two or three top sides in the world. It is a bit as though Greece had brushed aside New Zealand and England to emerge as serious contenders for rugby's crown.

All of which raises the tantalising question — why? Nations — especially tyrannically ruled ones — have often tried to use sporting prowess as a means of promoting their political or cultural aspirations. But these things are never tidy, else how could Brazil rule the football world so often? Sri Lanka's cricketing success seems equally hard to equate with its troubled and violent domestic politics. Perhaps the answer is simpler and less portentous — that they just have a very good cricket team indeed.



Letters to the Editor

Dunblane: the crying need to explain

WHEN blame is finally attributed, or evaded, over the issue of a firearms certificate to the evident social misfit who committed the Dunblane school massacre, will Parliament conveniently shelve consideration of the more basic matter of guns in the community and the nature of people attracted to owning them (Massacre of the infants, March 14)?

A gun is essentially a weapon for killing or injuring another creature. Its appeal over many other lethal weapons is its ability to achieve this at a distance, conferring on its user greater personal safety. I have the gravest misgivings over the personality of someone attracted to the possession of such a weapon and am not wholly persuaded by the arguments of the target-shooters. Technology affords us many safe and satisfying means of demonstrating our prowess at hand/eye/brain co-ordination without resort to such weapons.

If the authorities sincerely wish to avoid future Hungerford and Dunblane tragedies, they will need to take a much stronger line against the gun-owning, manufacturing and retailing lobby than their American counterparts have had the courage to do, or face a further escalation in gun-related crime.

Any society will inevitably have its share of disturbed members, some of which will be tipped out of control by

events. If we continue to allow them easy access to this lethal weaponry, the grieving parents of Dunblane will not be the last to pay the price for our timidity.

Terry Raine,
90 Faldoun Way,
London NW11 6JD.

HERE are no circumstances in which personal ownership of guns cannot be effectively replaced by public or occupational ownership. Gun clubs could be approved owners, always retaining the weapons on their property; game shoots and sports shooting could be similarly controlled by the owners of such facilities and events; and the use of arms by farmers to put down pests and vermin could be catered for by placing arms in local police stations to be loaned on production of the necessary licence.

T D Wilson,
9 Broomfield Road,
Broomhill,
Sheffield S10 2SE.

PHILOSOPHERS and theologians who speak of good and evil must explain the difference in evil-doing. If God created both good and evil and light and dark, then he does not appear to have distributed them fairly between females and males. We must look rather to social relations, such as images of violence. Violence in children's comic strips, violence as an effective and good response to problems in com-

puter games and in so much of our literature and myth, film and TV, teach what it is to be a "proper" man.

Annette Lawson,
Holly Lodge Gardens,
London N6.

APPARENTLY Thomas Hamilton led a reasonably competent, law-abiding existence, aside from allegedly sexually abusing little boys over many years. He seemed to feel strongly entitled to fulfil whatever sexual urges he had, just because he had them.

Paedophiles often vigorously justify their sexual use of children but prosecuting them is still immensely difficult, and measures to improve the giving of evidence by children are still hardly implemented, nor is their evidence taken seriously enough. If it were, it is just possible that more paedophiles would get the message that they are not entitled to abuse children.

That wouldn't stop most but at least it might block the development in some of resentment at being even mildly thwarted, which eventually crystallised so murderously in Thomas Hamilton.

Uma Freely,
Domestic Violence Drop-In,
London N8.

HAD to deal with the sudden death of a seven-year-old boy through natural causes in the school playground last year. This inci-

dent is every parent's, teacher's and carer's worst possible nightmare.

The children of Dunblane Primary School will need time to express their grief and they will do so in many ways: withdrawal, denial, uncontrollable outbursts. They will draw the events, have nightmares, write poems and letters to their lost friends, brothers, sisters, cousins. They will re-enact the incident through play.

Schools, parents and authorities up and down the country will now start to ask themselves how to make our schools and children in our care safe while maintaining the open, warm and friendly atmosphere essential for a healthy educational environment.

I know at our school we will focus on this issue over the coming months.

Sam Curling,
Chair of Governors,
Welford Park Schools,
75 Kingsley Road,
South Harrow,
Middlesex HA2 8LE.

WE MUST set about installing Different Circuit Television and automatic security entry doors to all schools in Britain. With CCTV every member of staff could clearly see and speak to any child before allowing them in. The cost could be met by the National Lottery.

Schools should also have an automatic panic alarm link to police stations which could

increase response time if an incident occurs.

Schools cannot become fortresses but they should have the same level of security as shopping centres, car parks and other public amenities already served by CCTV.

Wayne Daley,
15 Bondens Way,
Hartford Chase,
Cratlington,
Northumberland NE23 9GU.

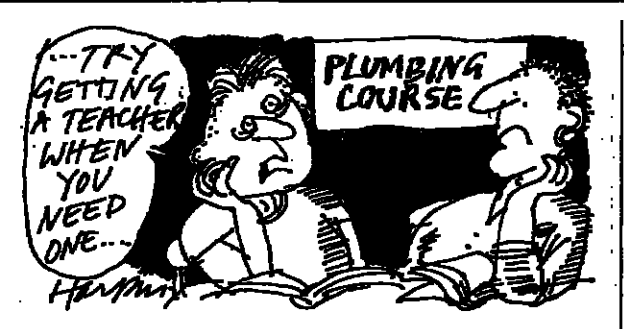
Animal welfare

THE recent pigeon kidnapping (March 9) underlines what a maltreated species these amiable urbanites are and the concerns for them are whether they are safe to eat or likely to infect us with disease.

Homing pigeons carrying messages saved thousands of lives in both world wars; the Coast Guard uses pigeons to deliver messages when the bright orange colour of life vests — saving lives at sea — and they are still used to carry blood samples from hospitals to laboratories in emergencies. On top of these heroic achievements they are surely the most underpaid road sweepers of all time.

In a supposedly civilised society surely we can find better things to eat, though if you can't it is worth remembering that you are more likely to catch salmonella and toxoplasmosis from undercooked, contaminated meat and your child is more likely to get a disease from his or her best friend than a pigeon.

Peter Newton,
18 Jarvis House,
Goldsmith Road,
London SE15 5SY.



No entrance for a tradesman

AS THE mother of four white, working-class boys I feel I can count myself as an expert (Under pressure, March 9). They are undervalued because they are working class, their skills and ambitions are derided as inferior to the aspirations of their middle-class counterparts.

To aspire to become an electrician or plumber is not quite good enough to warrant the same funding as a university humanities degree.

One of my sons started a bricklaying course funded by the local authority where the same bricks were used every day and the tutor rarely turned up. This would not be tolerated at university and is a common attitude to vocational qualifications that is

not found in the rest of Europe.

Our prisons are overflowing with white working class boys and the Government plans to build more. Perhaps we are waiting for a war before these boys are worth spending any money on.

The middle-class feminists in their justified clamour for equality forget that not all men were on top of the heap; many were little more than wage slaves.

Working class boys are full of energy and enthusiasm until they see that society has no place for them and their dreams.

Jacqueline Flanagan,
97 Glebe Crescent,
Witham,
Essex CM8 2HZ.

Hidden costs of custody

READERS of Andrew Rutherford's powerful article (Enemy behind bars, March 13) might also consider the other "wars" the US administration is waging on its own people in the name of "security and defence". They wage war on native American people by keeping and testing nuclear weapons in the Nevada Desert. They wage war on the poor and disadvantaged by starving them of resources (one in five US children lives below the poverty line) while still pouring money into the military and, in particular, nuclear weapons. The total cost of the Trident nuclear armed submarine system will be \$170.2 billion. The 18th sub will be launched this summer.

Rae Street,
Calder Cottage,
Hare Hill Road,
Littleborough,
Lancs OL15 9HG.

RUTHERFORD ignores the damage done to mainly wives, but also an increasing number of husbands and children, by the wholesale incarceration of criminal wrongdoers. Imprisoning the father and, perhaps, principal wage-earner, condemns families to a life of poverty, uncertainty and, frequently, guilt by association.

Children growing up with a parent behind bars stand a good chance of suffering emotional and financial deprivation, added to which is often an ambivalent attitude to anti-social behaviour and the police.

Michael Howard's macho response to the buying of the hanging and flogging brigade may yet prove to be a Pyrrhic victory.

Deirdre St Clair Martin,
Manor Farm,
West Compton,
Dorchester, Dorset DT2 0EY.

A Country Diary

GLoucestershire: The efficient and well organised shepherd knows to a day when each ewe in the flock is due to lamb. This enables a chart on the kitchen wall to act as a running aide memoire of who needs to be looked out for and when. It is achieved by harnessing the wax loaded raddle on the ram at tugging time last autumn and then counting 147 days from the time a wax mark appears on the rump of the ewe. There have been years when we have matched this recipe for organisational efficiency but this is not one of them. Young Jerry, the ram lamb charged with responsibility for impregnating the flock last autumn, was a bit on the small side and the leather harness which holds the block of wax on the chest would have bedded more adjustments than I could contemplate when it mated. So, although he no doubt got round the flock to satisfy the reproductive imperative we are in no way sure of when lambs will start to appear. However, we have completed

the necessary preliminaries. Lambing pens, sterilised with Jeyes fluid and ready for clean straw, have been prepared in the field shelter. And, a fortnight back, we got all the ewes in and gave them their injections. This is the essential protection against the clostridial diseases and, if you give it to the ewe in the spring before lambing, it protects her lambs until the autumn when they get a booster dose. We had this part well organised — I came home with a fresh 25-dose pack of Heptovac-P from the veterinary chill cabinet and a supply of disposable needles. Two mills in the neck muscle was harder than it sounds since getting through thick winter fleeces to find flesh on a morning when every ewe was coated in frost was not the easiest of tasks. But it also gave the chance to examine the undercarriage of each ewe to ascertain how close to lambing she was. At that stage three weeks off looked the best bet. As I write, we are still waiting.

COLIN LUCKHURST

Urban warfare

GEORGE Monbiot (Time to build peopletown, March 13) is right to urge a community-based approach to urban regeneration. So more power to his elbow in promoting communities and homes on vacant urban sites.

However, even with the present market for brownfield sites, John Gummer believes that only half of the estimated 4.4 million new households can be accommodated in existing urban areas — and this might well go down if there is a commercial imperative to develop these sites for other uses. So how do we accommodate all these extra households?

Tim Cordy,
Director, Town and Country Planning Association,
17 Carlton House Terrace,
London SW1Y 5AS.

In a word

BRIAN Elise (Letters, March 14) is not correct to say the bomber "hoist with [his] own petard" is "attempting to scale the ramparts with the aid of a hoist", but what a delightful idea (Letters, March 14). The quotation, from Hamlet, runs: "There's letters sealed... For 'tis the sport to have the engineer hoist with his own petard: an' shall go hard... But I will delve one yard below their mines... And blow them at the moon."

Hamlet intends to rewrite the letter that Rosencrantz and Guildenstern will carry to England, such that they rather than he will be executed: he intends to hoist (blow into the air) the bearers with their own explosive package.

Chris Thomas,
17 Broom Acres,
Fleet, Hants GU13 9QU.

Please include a full postal address, even on e-mailed letters, and a telephone number. We may edit letters: shorter ones are more likely to appear. We regret we cannot acknowledge those not used.

Diary

Matthew Norman

In honour of Frank Bruno, I am compelled to begin today with a tediously hackneyed boxing metaphor. So, then, let's get ready to rumble. I am intrigued to learn of a small but instructive fight between Labour, past and present. In the red corner, representing Old Labour, was George Galloway, the affable MP for Glasgow Hillhead; in the blue corner, fighting out of New Labour HQ in Millbank, was Derek "Dolly" Draper, an obliging lad who works in Mandy Mandelson's office. In a Soho bar last week, Dolly seemed up to the task, offering him £500 and some nice publicity for a cameo role in Annie's Bar, Channel 4's political soap opera. Reasoning that such appearances have done little for these (like Edward Currie) who have made them, he refused. "May I say, George," said Dolly, "how wise your decision is? I should tell you that, in my capacity as a consultant to Annie's Bar, I have had Mandy Mandelson to appear." "But in my capacity as assistant to Mandy, I have had to counsel him strongly against it." Loyalties here, loyalties there - what a strange thing it must be to serve as a soldier in New Labour.

YOU, The Jury have given your verdict - and by a crushing margin of five to one, you have found the widow of having a beard in 1972. Yesterday's exit poll exaggerated the margin, the final tally being 256 against 46 (which equates to 85 per cent for the beards). As predicted, Peter has refused to accept the verdict of The Jury. "It just goes to show," he said, "how deluded an electorate can be." Meanwhile, a woman claiming to have been "intimate" with him at York rang to back his denial. However, her refusal to give her name has fuelled speculation that someone put her up to the job.

In the Whitewater trial in Little Rock, Arkansas, the spotlight has picked out juror Barbara Adams, whose mode of dressing for court threatens her status. Miss Adams, a 31-year-old factory worker, arrives to hear evidence each day in the red and black polyester uniform of a Star Trek bridge officer. She has declined to wear full Klingon regalia, but the court felt this might be unseemly. It seems Miss Adams has accepted the need for some decorum. "I always wear my uniform," she told reporters, "to formal proceedings." "There is a chance now that she has become a celebrity, that the defence will ask for Miss Adams, Commander of the Little Rock Federation Alliance, to be removed. This could be dangerous. Along with a tricorder, scanner and communicator badge, a phaser gun never leaves her belt."

JUNIOR transport minister Shagger Norris spoke yesterday lunchtime to one of his favourite bodies. Among the many important fiscal points expertly covered in his speech to the Institute of Economic Affairs were the following: eliminating florist's bills by growing your own roses in a window box; purchasing chocolates and other confections wholesale in bulk; booking weekend country house hotel breaks at apex rates; and saving on restaurant bills by knowing how to customise menus and Spencers meals so they look home made.

MEANWHILE, also in central London yesterday lunchtime, John Wells was giving an address at Wesley's Chapel. Last week's speaker was Tony Benn; next week it's Norman Lamont, and the one after it's... Good Lord, it's someone listed as plain and simple "Frankie Fraser". This is a name of error or styling. Other speakers are given their correct titles - John Paton is "Rt Hon", for instance, while the Archdeacon of York is "The Ven George Austin" - so where the hell is Frankie Fraser's Mad? Paul Hulme, the Wesleyan minister, who has invited Mad Frankie back after his triumph there last year, has clearly taken a liberty. Let us pray that, for the reverend's sake, it is not construed as diabolical.



Big Frank and the Knickerbocker glory

Commentary

Peter Preston

SOME time in the early hours of Sunday morning a falling left book from the smaller chap will land on, or in areas adjacent to, the jaw of the bigger chap. At this point the repetitions of history may be expected to operate. The bigger chap is bigger than ever, some two stones heavier than when the pair last met seven years ago. He is also 34 now, over the slope of youthful resilience. The extra weight, like the passage of time, will not assist his speed of movement. Nor is it gathered as protective padding around his chin. There will therefore, as usual, be a sudden stiffening to the legs. The head will go back, inviting further damage, whilst the arms are thrust pawing forward as though waving a protective blanket. Curtains. Or, of course, we may see

something entirely different. Whatever the respective records of Bruno and Tyson, you can meter quite tell with championship boxing that is part of its dubious charm. The only (fascinating) certainty is that triumph or destruction will make not a whit of difference to the rosate esteem the British public habitually extends to Frank Bruno. His panto bookings, his supermarket openings, his Questions of Sport and Christmas special appearances are safe for all time. How, in conceivable logic, can this be so? The surrounding world does not love a loser. It prepares, elsewhere, to curry the sad Yorkshire pudding that is Raymond Iltingworth's cricket manager-ship. It piles abuse on the bowed head of Michael Atherton. Nobody wants, after Venables, to manage the England football team (unless Ken Clarke becomes suddenly available). British tennis is a sour joke. British rugby is a fumbling, leaden vale of tears. Why should Big Frank be different? Ray Seitz has the answer. Seitz, a State Department pro, was the last US Ambassador to the Court of King James. He's settled here to make money out of banking; and

maybe, to set up as a kind of Alistair Cooke in reverse, interpreting Britain to the Norfolk - greyhound racing are ours too; not to mention hockey, unless you're an Ancient Egyptianist. In modern terms, we invented them all and exported them all. This is an appalling burden. The USA, as Seitz says, was infinitely smarter. You can (via John Arlott's Oxford Companion) trace basketball back to the Yucatan in the seventh century BC or play "catch-baskets" with Omar Khayyam. In any case, it's not from our basket. The makers

of American Football took rugby union in the 20 years around the turn of the century and changed it so utterly that William Webb Ellis hailed from a different planet. Baseball, to be sure, was nicked from rounders in the early 19th-century, but the New York Knickerbockers made it an entirely separate field of dreams. These variants, with minor exceptions, have not been exported. They have become effectively indigenous sports played mostly in America. In reality, the baseball "World Series" only covers cities from Seattle to Miami. The "world" stops at the Statue of Liberty. The greatest American football teams never experience the humiliation of international defeat, for there is nobody to defeat them. Such

Sport is one of Britain's intractable problems, rather like an everlasting Maastricht IGC

notions, including the Seitz theory, are not intended to be extrapolated with mechanical precision. The occasional Davis Cup or Ryder Cup reverse can indeed produce occasional spasms of self-doubt. Too many good Canadian ice hockey players bring convulsions. Nevertheless, the who and why of what America plays constantly reinforces the American dream. The implicit assumption - even in Olympic trials - is that the

United States is the world, and can thus never be worsted. The Pentagon - see Grenada or Somalia - has taken to playing by precisely similar rules: only opponents who cannot win make the fixture list in the first place. One myth of invincibility reinforces another. Here's where Big Frank has it made. Marquess of Queensbury quite apart, heavy-weight boxing - in cash and legend - is an American game. He, like Oasis or Blur, may be allowed to play there without fear of humiliation. Success is not winning but staying past the last immortal, Henry Cooper, is fondly cherished for doing rather well before Cassius Clay knocked him out. But the rest are our games. We have to play them constantly against whippy Sri Lanka or the wily New Zealanders. We struggle to beat the Dutch at cricket. We aren't worthy of decent seeding in the European football club. Fill or Argentina can give us the rugby shakes. Sweeney leaves our tennis starlets for dead.

It is a chronicle of unique gloom. Around the globe, in poll after poll, people are going off politics and professing themselves far more interested in leisure and sport. They are, in sum, switching from the contemplation of intractable problems to the immersions of entertainment. But sport is one of Britain's intractable problems, rather like an everlasting Maastricht IGC: a feigngood patch condemned by history to leave us feeling lousy. What's to do? Tuck your chin in, use your weight, keep off the ropes. But above all, as the implicit assumption - even in: don't forget to duck, 'Arry.

Out to lunch with Harold and Antonia



Bel Littlejohn

ANOTHER day, another high-powered set lunch in a discreet but far from uninteresting new restaurant. There comes a time in everyone's life when you've simply got to sit down and be counted. Change is gonna come, sang the late, great Marvin Gaye. The format is simple. First you change for lunch. And then you lunch for change. It's worth it, you know, even if you don't get much change out of £30 a head, excluding service. Intended result? A complete overhaul of our outdated hierarchical structures, and the prospect of a truly modern, democratic republic by the year 2000.

It's an open secret that I was a founder-member of what is now acknowledged as one of the greatest of our post-war radical lunch groups, the Campden Hill Square Set. Field in Ms Lady Antonia Fraser's home, not much more than a mile or so from Acton and only four miles in a cab from Brixton, it consisted of people like John Mortimer and Melvyn Bragg - people very, very peckish for change. Those were the days. We would arrive at 12.30 for 1.00 in smart-but-casual wear. So as to cut down on the cost of clothes, our treasurer, David Hare, had arranged a 10 per cent discount at all Nicole Fahri outlets for all members on production of a current membership card. Our coats would be taken by Ms Lady Antonia Fraser's co-workers, Dolores and Felipe, who would then retire to the kitchen to continue their discussions on workers' rights. At 1.00 sharp, the debate would start. John Mortimer would propose Lenin's Quo Vadis. Too far too soon, David would counter, we shouldn't arrive at our destination until it was too late, and the chips were already down. The debate would then be thrown open to the floor. Antonia would suggest Le Caprice, arguing that it represented an entirely open society at a price worth paying. She would then be shouted down by Harold, who favoured the strong, more directly peasant-like flavours issuing from the River Cafe. Passions would now be at their height. Harold would walk out, saying that choosing Quo Vadis would be just like bombing Hanoi all over again, only more expensive. Contrary to what its critics would have us believe, the Campden Hill Square Set achieved its aim of becoming the forum for civilised debate

until it broke up in disarray amidst accusation and counter-accusation just six months later. Weeks later, in the upstairs rooms of The Ivy, over canapés of twilets shaped as parliamentary port-cullises, Charter 88 was formed. The number - 88 - honoured the two original signatories: Clare Rayner and Miriam Margulies, and the title paid tribute to the last great Democratic president of the US, Jimmy Carter. And so to the Common Sense Club, a gang of republicans who believe passionately that the people should wrest democratic power from the state. We meet regularly in Charlotte Street's exclusive L'Etrole, always in a private room so that ordinary diners won't overhear our democratic discussions or, worse, be tempted to join in. Basically, we are all fiercely anti-monarchist, none more so than that great republican polemicist Tony Holden, author of *Charles: Prince Of Men* (1972), *Charles And Diana: A Marriage Made In Heaven* (1981), *Charles And Diana: A Crowning Love* (1989), *God Bless You, Ma'am: A Celebration of Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother* (1991), *Princes Edward: TV Producer Of Genius* (1994) and most recently, *The Monarchy: A Serious Reappraisal* (1995), in which he argues that an absurdly rosy, cosy view of the Royal Family has been foisted on the people by unscrupulous journalists, interested more in profit than in truth. Tony chaired our last meeting of the Common Sense Club. The debate started as we were taking our seats. "These chairs are a bit uncomfortable, aren't they? Can I refer it to the membership of the Common Sense Club to vote for a change of chairs?" demanded Professor Stephen Haseler. On a point of information, Michael Mansfield then kindly pointed out that the chairs were still stacked on each other top to bottom: the Professor had been attempting to sit on the up-turned legs. But before long the Common Sense Club got into its stride. "A grown-up, educated people simply doesn't need the deference to so-called superiors and fancy titles!" I announced, bravely. Over pudding, Tony Benn had an announcement to make: "You may remember at our last meeting we sanctioned a letter to Her Majesty explaining our hand stand against the Monarchy. I'm now delighted to say we have received a hand-written reply from Buckingham Palace thanking us on behalf of the Queen, no less, for our kind letter, confirming she read it with the very greatest of interest and wishing us all the very best of luck with our project." He then passed the letter around for us all to look at. A buzz of radical pride swept through the company. Take it from me, there's nothing like knowing your efforts are appreciated by the people who really matter.



Loner in our midst

Families moved to Dunblane to escape the cities but horror pursued them. Paul Barker asks what society can do in the reasonable pursuit of safety

LIKE THE killing of young James Bulger in Liverpool, the tragic deaths in Dunblane make it impossible to avoid asking questions about what sort of society we are creating. To ask them is not to try to diminish the terrible particularity, the appalling uniqueness, of the crime committed against those small children and their teacher in Primary One. Nor is it to seek to soften Thomas Hamilton's guilt, nor to play down the heart-rending grief of families he callously shattered. Sociology must not erase individuality. But crimes, even the worst and most seemingly inexplicable, don't happen in a vacuum. These killings are at the other end of the social and geographical spectrum from the Bulger murder. That was a crime which spoke (among other things) of the threat-hare realities of life in the

Lakeside, Thurrock, is that they are a poor parody of a traditional city street. But Jane Jacobs, an early heroine of the urban conservation movement, wrote that "the bedrock attribute of a successful city district is that a person must feel personally secure among all these strangers". Enclosed and video-scrutinised, the shopping mall makes people, and especially women, feel safe. No need to carry bags slung across your chest. In a glass-sided lift, no fear of assault. Thomas Hamilton, however, was not a stranger. Though he was widely known locally as an oddball, nothing would have made Dunblane secure from him. The police, I hope, will not this time get their routine allocation of blame for not having put him inside, or not refusing him a firearms certificate, after accusations of indecency with boys. As David Rose points out in his excellent new book, *In The Name Of The Law*, the standards of evidence required to get a conviction have grown ever higher. Revealingly, when the local council refused Hamilton permission to run a boys' club in a hall of flats, he returned to the local-government Ombudsman and overturned

them. Nor, under an older system, was any courtroom evidence even necessary. When I was a teenager my mother came home one night, worried that a man had been following her menacingly along a dark, quiet road. I rang the police. They found him hiding behind a wall, took him down to an even quieter part of the village and beat him up. "He won't do that again," they said. No one, especially not us, complained. A loner, once, was locked into a close network of social control. For better or, sometimes, for worse. But this is not the way we choose to live now. You read all too much about the rise in the number of lone mothers. (The statistics are exaggerated, for difficult reasons, for both left and right.) You read little about the rise in the number of men living on their own. Last year, more than a quarter of households in Great Britain consisted of one person living alone. This is double the proportion a generation ago, in 1961. (If we have a housing shortage, it is due to this continuing breakup.) At present, most of those who live alone are women old enough to draw their pension. But the latest edition of Social

Trends shows that the recent growth has been among people younger than that, and by a large margin. It predicts that this shift will continue. By the year 2011 such lone men are expected to form the largest group of one-person households. It is a form of social atomisation. After the nuclear family, the nuclear fission. In the jigsaw of contemporary society, it is a change at least as significant as the spread of urban wastelands like those where James Bulger's young killers grew up. Because it is less concentrated, it has been less noticed.

ONE mothers at least have their children to tie them to a wider world. But lone men, especially if they are unemployed, may have nothing. The back streets of the shabbiest ends of every British town are evidence of the elaborate communities of fantasy that men create as substitutes: martial arts centres, porn shops, tattoo parlours. The back streets of the shabbiest ends of every British town are evidence of the elaborate communities of fantasy that men create as substitutes: martial arts centres, porn shops, tattoo parlours. Plus the extraordinary esse of buying drink almost everywhere, to help you sit at home and brood on all this.

For some, guns and knives become part of the dream: the cinema of fantastic action that unrolls inside their head, with themselves as hero. Billy Liar gone bad.

IT cancelled its Wednesday night screenings of an ill-timed title, *Licensed To Kill*. The video release of *Natural Born Killers*, intended for next week, has been postponed. Notoriously, sociologists and psychologists have failed to come up with proofs that tie the watching of violence to the perpetration of violence. Yet in every other segment of life we assume that similar influences exist. (Are feminists wasting their breath in pressing for less passive portraits of women? Or political parties in pursuing equal TV time?) The mistake, probably, is to put the issue too narrowly. For the true impact of reading about, and watching, violence, you have to look at the entire social setting: the sea in which we all swim, like fish. The idea of violence becomes routine.

I write as a libertarian. People should be allowed to go to Hell their own way. But to plunge others into "a medieval vision of Hell" (in one Dunblane ambulanceman's words) is something else again. It is time for liberals as well as conservatives to ask themselves some difficult questions. For example: Has the video player, where isolated moments can be played and re-played indefinitely, changed the old aesthetic argument about seeing violence in context? Harmless rifle clubs have existed for years, but what about those that feed the new gun culture of would-be Trivolts or Schwarzeneggers? Does anyone at all, except the army and, sometimes, the police have any good reason for having a gun?

I yield to no one in my dislike of Michael Howard's Home Secretaryship. But it is important to remember that, in addressing the wish most people have - to feel safe - he is speaking to real fears. In seeking alternative answers to his, you cannot ignore the changed context. Principles may remain the same. The society in which to try to apply them doesn't. Paul Barker is a senior fellow of the Institute of Community Studies and former editor of *New Society*.

World news, delivered to your door.

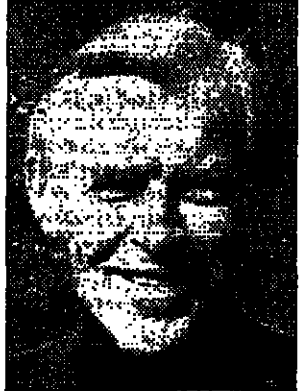
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J A Cuddon

By definition, a bookman

THE WRITER J A Cuddon, who has died in London aged 87, was probably best known for his Dictionary of Literary Terms...

tions of the city and its history are memorable, but the book's most pungent flavours are provided by chance encounters...



Cuddon... lover of words

Merits, they are not satisfactory novels. There is often uncertainty about point of view. Much the best of them, Testament of Isaac...

talents never quite found their natural outlet, except perhaps in his very first book. It was commonplace to hear him described as a remarkable man...

John Anthony Bowden Cuddon, writer and teacher, born June 2, 1928; died March 12, 1996

Brian Hulls

Quietly telling point of view

BRIAN Hulls, who has died of cancer aged 48, was a gentleman cameraman — a species I had thought to be extinct until I met him...

us. Courage can be as contagious as panic, and courage was what he communicated. It steadied us all.



Hulls... eloquent silence

equal firepower shot in the front lines of Mostar later that year. I took the credit for one of these and Jeremy Bowen for the other.

He decided to return to the international arena and the war zones if necessary. He described himself as "a little off colour."

So it was that he came quite late to the craft in which he made his reputation. He was well on the wrong side of 40 when the wars of ex-Yugoslavia began...

John Anthony Bowden Cuddon, writer and teacher, born June 2, 1928; died March 12, 1996

Ross Hunter

Gloss on top of glamour

THE CREDIT sequence of Initiation of Life (1969) shows a variety of precious stones drifting down in slow motion forming a multi-coloured mound of jewels on the Cinema Scope screen...

Hunter, who was homosexual, was always seen at parties and with attractive women on his arm. He arrived at the 1971 Oscar ceremony, accompanied by former teenage star Sandra Dee...



Shangri-La meets Purgatory... Ross Hunter (left) on the set of Lost Horizon with director Charles Jarrett

friendship between wealthy Lana Turner (another Hunter film) and a black woman, grossed over \$10 million.

Friendship between wealthy Lana Turner (another Hunter film) and a black woman, grossed over \$10 million.

with all-star passenger lists. He earned \$45 million at the box office, and Hunter seemed to be able to do no wrong.

several mini-series for television, a medium which had become the receptacle for the kind of lush soap opera with which he will always be associated on the big screen.

Clifton Robinson

Horizons of service

AMONG a contingent of 2,000 recruits who arrived in Britain from the West Indies to join the Royal Air Force in 1944, was a young Jamaican, Clifton Robinson...

he was always known, who has died aged 69, trained to be a wireless operator and served in that capacity until 1948.

master at Kingston Senior School. A year later he was back in Britain, teaching at Mellor School, Leicester.

teacher at the Uplands School. In 1973 Robbie became a justice of the peace and was awarded the OBE, in recognition of his service to the community.

the new and complex minefield of race relations and also married his second wife, Margaret, a constant source of support and encouragement.

David Alton, Liberal Democrat MP, 45; Alex Bernstein, chairman, Granada Group, 60; David Bryer, director, Oxford, 52; Isobel Buchanan, soprano, 42; Colin Croft, cricketer, 43; Frank Dobson, MP, Labour's environment spokesman, 57; Sunetra Gupta, author, 31; Deirdre Hutton, chairman, Scottish Consumers Council, 47; Prof John Mitchell, medical economist, 76; Michael Moore, chairman, NSPCC, 60; Robert Nye, novelist and poet, 57; Ben Okri, author, 37; Frances Partridge, diarist, 86; Gavin Stamp, architectural historian and writer, 48.

Jackdaw



Rush, rush

AFTER A SPELL in a mediocre office job, I saw exactly what I wanted: Advertisements Manager. Interest in art and antiques. Fluent French essential. I got the job. For the next 10 years I travelled across Europe...

tiques dealers — I figured if I whisked them off to the Florence Antiques Fair and arranged for them to have dinners in palazzos, private views, parties and a reception with the mayor, they couldn't possibly refuse me advertising — they didn't. And life was good. Oh, I was often tired. Sometimes I wondered if I wasn't overdoing the travel, but it was a habit that was hard even to think of giving up.

Late bar Dear Mr. Berman, Your maid, Kathy, has been instructed to stop delivering soap to your room and remove the extra soaps. I can be of further assistance, please call extension 1108 between 8am and 5pm.

Thank you, Elaine Carmen, Housekeeper Dear Mr. Kenselder, My bath-size Dial is missing. Every bar of soap was taken from my room including my own bath-size Dial. I came in late last night and had to call the bellhop to bring me 4 Little Cashmere Bouquets. S. Berman

Dear Mr. Berman, I have informed our housekeeper, Elaine Carmen, of your soap problem. I cannot understand why there was no soap in your room since our maids are instructed to leave 3 bars of soap each time they service a room. The situation will be rectified immediately. Please accept my apologies for the inconvenience. Martin L. Kenselder, Assistant Manager

Dear Mrs. Carmen, Who the hell left 54 little bars of Camay in my room? I came in last night and found 54 little bars of soap. I don't want 54 little bars of Camay, I want my one damn bar of bath-size Dial. Do you realize I have 54

bars of soap in here. All I want is my bath-size Dial. Please give me back my bath-size Dial. S. Berman From bad to worse for Mr. Berman in his soap war with a London hotel. Will he get his way with the Dial and oust the tumbling hotel burlesque? Find out in Monday's final instalment.

Dear Mr. Berman, I have informed our housekeeper, Elaine Carmen, of your soap problem. I cannot understand why there was no soap in your room since our maids are instructed to leave 3 bars of soap each time they service a room. The situation will be rectified immediately. Please accept my apologies for the inconvenience. Martin L. Kenselder, Assistant Manager

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... The boss-man with 20 years of breathing in this foul air under his belt smiles, pronouncing, "no no Dracula" while he hoists another bewildered and terrified beast from the confines of its 72 hour Black-mongrel-Maria, swinging it by the neck across the vestibule between pick-up and pen to meet its maker at the end of the fatman's downswing after the first, second or sometimes third ill-directed blow. "I have several contacts with dog-collectors who

HERE IN THIS place, the minutes are measured by the skins that mount in piles hanging from nails... by the skins and the pens that lie in piles at the foot of posts like discarded hour hands...

Doggy tales... Revelations

travel far and wide, swapping a plastic bucket for every dog village takes them. After three days on the road they bring the live dogs in and wait to take away the meat. Hours later, well before dawn, we keep the skins to sell to Bangkok and Japan... They only take the biggest and best skins to make drum-skins and leather goods from. You want to eat a penis?" he laughs and waves around the member he has just severed from a dog strung up by its hind legs...



Birthdays

David Alton, Liberal Democrat MP, 45; Alex Bernstein, chairman, Granada Group, 60; David Bryer, director, Oxford, 52; Isobel Buchanan, soprano, 42; Colin Croft, cricketer, 43; Frank Dobson, MP, Labour's environment spokesman, 57; Sunetra Gupta, author, 31; Deirdre Hutton, chairman, Scottish Consumers Council, 47; Prof John Mitchell, medical economist, 76; Michael Moore, chairman, NSPCC, 60; Robert Nye, novelist and poet, 57; Ben Okri, author, 37; Frances Partridge, diarist, 86; Gavin Stamp, architectural historian and writer, 48.

USE WILL POWER TO CHEAT DEATH... KIDNEY... Research Fund

all there's not much meat on a big dog, let alone a pup, and a dog takes time to grow flesh, so farming them is still impractical... As Crufts gets under way, a reminder that dogs can face more than preening and posturing in Philip Blenkinsop's report from The Land for the Australian magazine Revelations.

Jackdaw wants your jewels. E-mail jackdaw@guardian.co.uk. Fax 0171-713 4366, write Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.

Dan Glaister

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Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
Fax: 0171-833-4456

Finance Guardian

SFA completes list of merchant bank's executives to face discipline • Process 'not a witch-hunt'

Barings action 'imminent'

Dan Ackison

ACTION is imminent against former executives of Barings, the merchant bank whose 5000 million collapse rocked the City a year ago...

Singapore-based 'rogue trader', Nick Leeson. Their report was completed in January, since when it has been scrutinised by SFA lawyers...

advisers, which has had the effect of delaying the start of any SFA action. But the Guardian has learned that a list of those to face disciplinary hearings has been completed...

would face the full severity of the SFA's disciplinary process. At its most stringent, this process can result in offenders being stripped of their SFA membership effectively for life...

At the time of the rescue of Barings by Holland's ING bank, all top managers at Barings linked in any way to the running of Mr Leeson's Singapore offshoot were placed 'in suspension'...

mer 1994, which warned that Mr Leeson might be able to over-ride controls. The Deputy Prime Minister, Michael Heseltine, last night conceded that the complicated system of financial regulation might need to be updated...

Notebook

A single roof for the regulators



Edited by Alex Brummer

THE timing of last night's suggestions for a vastly increased role for the Securities and Futures Authority, put forward by its former chairman Christopher Sharples, could hardly have been better...

Critical branding

LEGAL & General chief executive David Prosser deserves a medal for being the only senior official in the bancassurance business not to announce that his group is seeking an acquisition...

Mirror images

FACED with Granada's pre-emptive move on Yorkshire-Tyne Tees Television and the merger between MAI and United News, all Mirror Group Newspapers can do is complain that it is barred from all the takeover excitement by the Government's planned media ownership rules...

Job fears at Fokker grow as Far East bid fails to appear

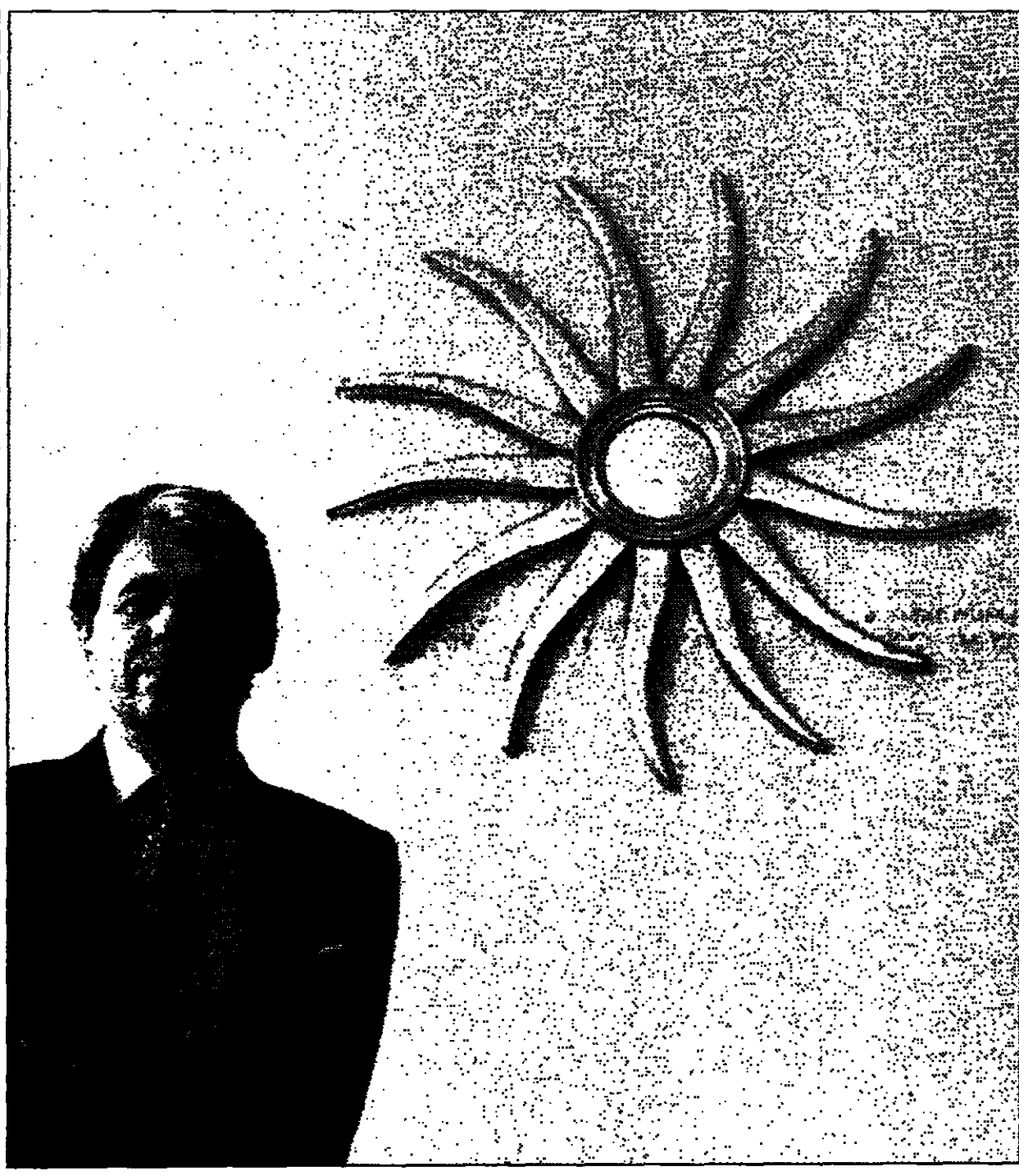
NEARLY 8,000 employees at Fokker, the Dutch plane-maker, left work yesterday convinced they would receive redundancy notices this weekend after a moon deadline for a Far East bid for their firm passed in near-total silence...

Mystery Swiss role played in Glaxo tax row

Roger Cowe

AN obscure Swiss company, secretly at the centre of Glaxo Wellcome's global commercial operations since the 1960s, is being investigated by the Inland Revenue in its lengthy dispute with the drugs group over internal pricing...

The Swiss issue could be more substantial than Singapore, because it is involved in virtually all sales and all countries where Glaxo operates. Adechsa was set up in 1964, when Glaxo was beginning to move from its base in infant milk production into pharmaceuticals...



Sunny spells... BTR's Ian Strachan saw increased profits despite slow growth in many markets

BTR digs in for 'great escape'

Pauline Springett

INDUSTRIAL conglomerate BTR yesterday unveiled a 15 per cent rise in pre-tax profits for 1995 at £1.5 billion and pledged to pursue a strategy of focusing on its core businesses...

struction and automotive markets and he warned of continuing difficulties this year. 'The markets in which we operate in 1996 were, in our view, disappointingly dull,' he said...

for sale. However, he conceded that it was 'not a core business'. It produces plastic, a commodity, and we don't like to be subject to commodity cycles,' he said...

It is clearly unjust that Rupert Murdoch's News International can effectively control the fast-expanding BSkyB while Mirror Group Newspapers can do no more than sit on a 20 per cent stake in Scottish TV...

Brittan gainsays EU line on pound

Julie Wolf in Brussels

SIR Leon Brittan yesterday broke ranks with the European Commission and backed the British government view that there is no need for a new exchange rate mechanism to link currencies that take part in monetary union with those that remain outside...

slower economic growth than have the ability of France and Germany to meet conditions in the Maastricht treaty. A commission spokesman said Sir Leon was speaking in a personal capacity. According to commission sources, Sir Leon had been asked to change the text of his speech...

So sorry, says UB, as Lineker tackle crunches crisp profits

Ian Kling

UNITED Biscuits yesterday sought to escape its accident-prone past after admitting to a dreadful 1995, in which the group was dumped from the FTSE-100 and ran up its first-ever loss. The board, full of apologies for its performance, said the company behind such brand names as McVities and KP lost £100.6 million last year, against pre-tax profits of £131.8 million in 1994...

return to profit. There would be a number of additional factory closures this year as UB faced stern competition, particularly from PepsiCo, owner of Walkers Crisps. Sounding like a soccer chairman, Mr Short gave a vote of confidence to the chief executive, Eric Nicoli, who has been under pressure to resign...

like Ace, a chocolate orange biscuit, the Mini Jaffa, a 'fun size' version of that hardy perennial, the Jaffa Cake, and Crinklin' Mini Cheddars. Old favourites Hula Hoops — helped by TV advertisements featuring comedians Harry Enfield and Paul Whitehouse — continue to sell well, as do Skips, Frisps and the Phileas Fogg range...

Yesterday's statement, which also included a dividend cut, was a classic 'kitchen sink' job — trade jargon for a company getting as much bad news off its chest as it can in one go. The play had the desired effect. UB shares closed up 2 1/2 p at 232 1/2 p.

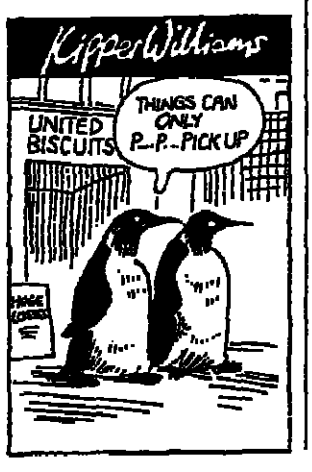


Table with columns for country and bank sell rates. Includes Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, USA.

£87m profit for MGN • Losses on Independent set to be eliminated • Live TV promises viewer figures

Mirror seeks way round media laws

Lisa Buckingham

MIRROR Group Newspapers is looking at ways to circumvent the provisions of the Government's planned media legislation, which the company said yesterday it regarded as discriminatory.

MGN, whose newspapers are regarded as supporters of the Labour Party, suggested that ownership rules contained in the Broadcasting Bill were politically inspired to be contrary to MGN's interests.

MGN and Rupert Murdoch's News International are each prohibited from bidding for an ITV company because they have more than 20 per cent of the newspaper market.

But News International already owns 40 per cent of BSkyB, whereas MGN's television interests are limited to a nascent cable operation, Live TV, and a 20 per cent stake in Scottish Television.

Mirror Group is now looking to a future Labour Government to change the media ownership regulations.

David Montgomery, MGN's chief executive, said his company had no plans to bid for an ITV company, but it did not want to be disadvantaged.

He admitted holding recent discussions with Michael Green's Carlton Communications, which owns Carlton TV and the Central franchise, but said the subject of a bid for MGN had not been raised.

Mr Montgomery's criticism of the planned media legislation came as Mirror Group unveiled profits of £87.2 million against £94.7 million last year.

Although Mirror Group still faces price competition in Scotland, it said the circulation of all its major titles was increasing and that financial pressures were reducing.

The company, which will raise the price of the Mirror by 3p to 30p while the Sun intends a similar increase to 27p, said it was confident that newsprint prices had peaked.

The cost of newsprint has risen from £230 a tonne in 1994, when the company's annual bill was £38 million, to £250 a tonne.

Mr Montgomery said that newsprint is likely to cost the group — which uses 250,000 tonnes a year — about £134 million this year.

MGN's share of the losses from the Independent and Independent on Sunday, in which it has a 43 per cent stake (estimated to have cost more than £40 million), are set to be eliminated this year.

Mr Montgomery said that the Independent group had lost £50.8 million in the 15 months to the end of 1994, a figure which included the cost of extensive redundancies.

In the latest financial year, losses shrank to £18.9 million, and Mr Montgomery estimates they will be about £7 million this year, with MGN picking up £3 million of that — a figure offset by earnings.

He said Live TV was expected to cost only £35 million rather than the originally estimated £30 million to establish, and should break even within three years.

Mr Montgomery said that the Independent group had lost £50.8 million in the 15 months to the end of 1994, a figure which included the cost of extensive redundancies.

Mr Montgomery's criticism of the planned media legislation came as Mirror Group unveiled profits of £87.2 million against £94.7 million last year.

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David Montgomery, flanked by Live TV's 'news bunnies', attacks government media plans PHOTOGRAPH BY HAMILTON WEST

News in brief

OfTel urges access to BT database

COMPANIES should be allowed to make copies of British Telecom's directory database, which contains nearly 20 million names, addresses and phone numbers, Don Cruickshank, OfTel's director general, said yesterday. The regulator believes the move would open up the market for directory products and services or make numbers available on CD-Roms or through computer-based on-line services.

UK set to lead growth

BRITAIN is set to lead Europe to stronger economic growth, according to an international survey on business expectations published today. The UK was one of the few markets expecting improvement in the first quarter of 1996, said Dun & Bradstreet Corporation.

TradePoint seeks AIM listing

TRADEPOINT, the electronic trading system set up as a rival to the Stock Exchange, yesterday announced plans to seek a listing on the Alternative Investment Market, AIM, by next month. The company, which currently enjoys a listing on the Vancouver stock exchange, said the flotation would leave it well positioned for the next stage in its development.

Power firm must pay out

AN unnamed regional electricity company (REC) has been ordered to pay £40 to each of two customers who complained that power supplies were cut unnecessarily last July. The cuts, on July 10, followed adverse weather. Yesterday's ruling by the industry watchdog, Professor Stephen Littlechild, is the first compensation order under rules laid down to guarantee minimum standards of service.

Milken faces new inquiry

MICHAEL Milken, the former junk-bond king, has become the target of a widening investigation by the US Securities and Exchange Commission for buying a large number of shares in Glaxo, a toy maker that was a takeover target for rival company Mattel in January.

Skills plea by CBI chief

BRITAIN needs long-term improvements to infrastructure and skills if its economic performance is to make the leap from merely adequate to really good, Adam Turner, the director-general of the CBI, said last night. Mr Turner said business had to put its own house in order, because the UK had a "longer tail" of poor performing companies than other countries.

Rolls workers reject offer

ROLLS-ROYCE manual workers in Bristol yesterday rejected a 4 per cent pay offer in a dispute which has already led to an overtime ban at the plant for the past 22 weeks. Hourly-paid workers at the Derby aerospace plant have already turned down the 4 per cent offer.

Enterprise profits double

ENTERPRISE Oil yesterday appeared to have exorcised memories of its failed £1.6 billion bid for rival Lasso, after more than doubling full year pre-tax profits to £201.2 million. Shares of Enterprise rose 33p to 420p, after the company revealed exploration successes in Scandinavia, Italy and Britain.

Lang questioned over skill centre firms inquiry

Sarah Whitebloom

LAN Lang, the Trade Secretary, was questioned last night over investigations by his department into firms linked to the convicted forger Patrick Doyle, whose now-collapsed AST group bought a large slice of the Government's former Astra training centre in 1993.

Rhodri Morgan, Labour MP for Cardiff West, called on Mr Lang, in a parliamentary question, to disclose what investigations were under way and he asked what representations he had had relating to the fitness of AST's directors.

Mr Doyle — who is prime mover behind the companies. In 1993 the Guardian disclosed concerns over AST's acquisition of skills centres from Astra's receivers, including the facts that Mr Doyle had been jailed in 1986 for a £700,000 forgery attempt

and was effectively barred in 1991 from involvement with some training schools in the United States.

Just 18 months later the AST group collapsed owing millions of pounds to more than a third of a million to the Department of Employment and another vehicle controlled by Mr Doyle, Firlands Training, took over business and staff from the defunct enterprise.

A spokesman for Firlands said last night: "There has been a DIT inquiry... for about five to six months." He admitted that company directors and senior staff had been interviewed, saying: "There is not a single person who does not welcome a government inquiry."

The man, who refused to give his name but insisted he was not Mr Doyle, added: "Government cutbacks in training have been public disgrace and required investi-

gation." He went on to say that allegations by "a Labour MP" had lost Firlands a contract with a Welsh Training and Enterprise Council, leading to a number of job cuts. "He should bury himself in a river somewhere," said the Firlands' spokesman. Mr Morgan admitted last night

Critics have alleged that the ministers' stance amounted to flagrant negligence

that his intervention with the TEC might have cost some jobs.

At the time of the 1993 sale, the Department of Employment argued that, since Astra had already been privatised, AST's acquisition of the skills centres was not a matter for ministers.

in its heyday the Astra centre was the linchpin of government training policy, with 60 outlets around the country training around 168,000 people a year.

But since Mr Doyle took control most remaining Astra centres, controversy has raged over his business methods and his treatment of staff.

The TEC National Council said last night that it advised all members to look closely at the situation in respect of their dealings with Firlands,

received from you unilaterally, unsigned, undated, backdated changes to contracts claiming to move them from permanent contracts to fixed-term contracts scheduled to end on the 22 March backdated to March of last year.

"As you are aware, the staff... are protected by continuity of service from Astra through AST to Firlands employment."

Mr Gallagher continued: "Such an act is unlawful and these documents should be withdrawn with immediate effect... Failure to do so will result in legal action being taken against Firlands."

Mr Gallagher continued: "Such an act is unlawful and these documents should be withdrawn with immediate effect... Failure to do so will result in legal action being taken against Firlands."

The Firlands spokesman — who claimed the firm still operated 14 skills centres — said that since TECs only gave contracts for one year the company was left with little choice in dealing with its staff. But he insisted that contracts for the forthcoming year were being issued.

Tony Gallagher, PTC assistant secretary, wrote: "I suspect that staff at Firlands establishments have recently

Bright gleam of Reckitt is not all that it seems

Outlook

Pauline Springett

THE headline profit was dramatic, but the underlying figures, as so often with Reckitt & Colman, were more mundane. The sharp rise in pre-tax profits was fuelled mainly by the £100.4 million profit on the sale of its Norwich food and drinks business, including Colman's mustard, to Unilever, the Anglo-Dutch conglomerate.

Stripped down to basics, it came in at £265.1 million, at the lower end of analysts' expectations.

Nevertheless, the chief executive, Vernon Sankey, insisted the company's strategy was going according to plan. Reckitt was set to become "the world's leading household products company".

Reckitt was not, he said, in the business of competing with the likes of Unilever and Procter & Gamble, which mass-marketed detergents and soap powders. It was focused on selling niche household cleaning products and over-the-counter drugs.

So far, the main thrust of this strategy has been the £1 billion purchase at the end of 1994 of the US household cleaning products group, L&F. Reckitt spent last year trying to digest this huge purchase and reckons the process is largely complete. True, there were some unpleasant mid-year hiccupps produced by the amalgamation of different stock systems. That cost a painful \$60 million, but Mr Sankey said it was a one-off.

tions. Indeed, over the next two years it is not expecting to make any large purchases at all, although a series of £20 million to £30 million deals are likely in Asia and Latin America.

Although this is a strategic decision, it is also driven by a desire acknowledged by Mr Sankey to reduce debt. Reckitt's net debt at the end of the year was £536 million, compared to a surplus at the end of 1994 of £43.6 million.

In the UK and continental Europe, the big success story was over-the-counter drugs.

Reckitt's next thrust will be in Latin America and Asia, where the public does tend to be influenced by brand names and where the company has had encouraging results. Last year, for instance, sales in eastern Asia rose by 25 per cent while those in Brazil jumped by a fifth.

But these are also markets where things have a tendency to go swiftly wrong. Reckitt will be hoping that its recent taste of what it called the "tequila" effect, in both Argentina and Mexico, does not become too familiar.

Stock market value	£2.76bn
Share price	659p + 24p
Workforce	16,000
Interest cover	6.9
Pre-tax profit	£272m + £90m
Dividends	25p
Sales (continuing operations)	
Household and toiletry	1,821.1
Drugs	234.6
Food	193.1
Other	97.3

Clinton snubs China's 'stall sanctions for planes' deal

Mark Tran in New York

THE Clinton administration yesterday brushed aside a Chinese offer to formally announce a \$4 billion order for passenger planes from Boeing and McDonnell Douglas in return for lifting sanctions stemming from a dispute over software piracy.

Boeing, McDonnell and Airbus are on tenderhooks as China is poised to announce its next round of big orders.

The failure to secure the order will be another setback to Airbus, which has lost out to Boeing on a string of large orders from Asian countries.

China is expected to place orders for 30 Boeings, valued at \$3 billion based on list prices, including five 747s, 10 of the new big two-engine 777 planes and numerous smaller 737 airliners. McDonnell is expected to win an order for 20 MD-90s valued at \$1 billion.

China has used the prospect of big aircraft orders as leverage before, particularly to win renewal of most favoured nation trading status every June. By dangling the possibility of such orders, China ensures a lobbying drive by American manufacturers to win MFN renewal.

The US has poured cold water on the Chinese proposal. Trade officials said that sanctions would not be delayed. The US wants the Chinese government to close factories that pirate American products such as compact discs and computer software.

Textile jobs going abroad as Coats loses thread

Tony May

COATS Viyella, Britain's biggest textile firm, yesterday launched a surprise £50 million restructuring plan which will shift more production to low-cost countries.

The move follows a 6.2 per cent fall in profits to £152.4 million for 1995, blamed on raw material price increases which almost halved margins in the clothing division. The board decided to overhaul its clothing, thread and home furnishings divisions by shifting resources.

The company would not be drawn on the implications for its 18,000 UK production employees as no discussions had been held with them.

One industry source said that while many cutting and stitching jobs might go overseas, other more added-value jobs would be created. But thousands of jobs are likely to go across the UK textile industry as all companies face a similar problem.

The chief executive, Neville Bain, said the trigger for change was the elimination of the global multi-fibre agreement quotas by 2005.

Coats will keep large-scale production in this country to serve its biggest customer, Marks and Spencer, which last year increased its business from £285 million to £296 million.

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The Guardian Friday March 15 1996

CHELTEMHAM FESTIVAL

One Man finishes like a 'clapped-out banger' as the Irish champion romps away with the Gold Cup. Chris Hawkins reports

Imperial Call lives up to the blarney

SO NOW we know it wasn't just blarney. The stories filtering across the Irish Sea about the brilliance of Imperial Call were true and at Cheltenham yesterday he won the Tote Gold Cup with a faultless display of jumping...



Shamrock heroes... Imperial Call and Conor O'Dwyer are mobbed by the Irish racegoers after their Gold Cup victory

Fakenham runners and riders with form

- 2.10 Kimberley Bay
2.40 Lynne Gold
2.10 Ardmore Chief
2.40 Whisk My Line (nb)
2.10 A Wally Gibson
2.40 Cyren The Great
2.10 Emerald

- 2.10 WYNDHAM HILLS HANDICAP MARE 10 100lbs
2.10 WYNDHAM HILLS HANDICAP MARE 10 100lbs
2.10 WYNDHAM HILLS HANDICAP MARE 10 100lbs

- 2.40 CHELTEMHAM HANDICAP MARE 10 100lbs
2.40 CHELTEMHAM HANDICAP MARE 10 100lbs
2.40 CHELTEMHAM HANDICAP MARE 10 100lbs

- 3.10 WYNDHAM HILLS HANDICAP MARE 10 100lbs
3.10 WYNDHAM HILLS HANDICAP MARE 10 100lbs
3.10 WYNDHAM HILLS HANDICAP MARE 10 100lbs

But approaching the second last Dunwoody felt One Man falter and in a matter of strides he went from a beautifully tuned racing machine to a clapped-out banger.

Folkestone

- 2.00 Tony's Girl
2.30 Sorbiera
3.00 Forest Star
3.30 Peacemaker
4.00 Captain Marmalade
4.30 Call Me River
5.00 Dolce Morte

- 2.00 WYNDHAM HILLS HANDICAP MARE 10 100lbs
2.00 WYNDHAM HILLS HANDICAP MARE 10 100lbs
2.00 WYNDHAM HILLS HANDICAP MARE 10 100lbs

- 2.40 CHELTEMHAM HANDICAP MARE 10 100lbs
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3.10 WYNDHAM HILLS HANDICAP MARE 10 100lbs
3.10 WYNDHAM HILLS HANDICAP MARE 10 100lbs

Young Hustler, whose objective has long been the National, finished fifth and did not have a hard race. He is a 10-1 chance for Liverpool with Coral's...

Wolverhampton (A.W.)

- 2.20 Allinson's Mate
2.30 Nemo Student
2.40 Nemo Student
3.50 LE SPOTY (nap)
4.20 Nemo Student
4.30 Leigh Cruiser

- 2.00 WYNDHAM HILLS HANDICAP MARE 10 100lbs
2.00 WYNDHAM HILLS HANDICAP MARE 10 100lbs
2.00 WYNDHAM HILLS HANDICAP MARE 10 100lbs

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3.10 WYNDHAM HILLS HANDICAP MARE 10 100lbs
3.10 WYNDHAM HILLS HANDICAP MARE 10 100lbs

Triumph for Pipe after disaster

Richard Dunwoody was badly shaken when Martin's Lamp fell fatally in the Grand Annual Chase at Cheltenham yesterday but will ride at Fakenham today.

Results

- CHLTEMHAM
2.15 (2m 4 1/2) Mottis, P. PARODYE
2.15 (2m 4 1/2) Mottis, P. PARODYE
2.15 (2m 4 1/2) Mottis, P. PARODYE

Vertical text on the left side of the page, including 'Merges acc...', 'database', 'No catch', and 'hellphones'.

RACELINE advertisement with contact information and a small graphic.

Soccer

Strike stops play in Italy

John Glover in Milan

THERE will be no Serie A games this weekend, after the breakdown of last-minute negotiations between players and clubs.

salaries of players whose clubs fail to honour their contracts because of bankruptcy. Players are calling for the fund, which is wholly depleted, to be financed by the clubs.

Chelsea cash in as Hoddle keeps his options open

Martin Thorpe

CHELSEA'S attempt to put their house in order received a boost from the upholders yesterday, though doubts remain about the future of one of the architects.

will be swelled to a possible £10 million once the chairman Bates and his reconciled director, Matthew Harding agree soon on a refinancing package for the club.

Harford faces gesture charge

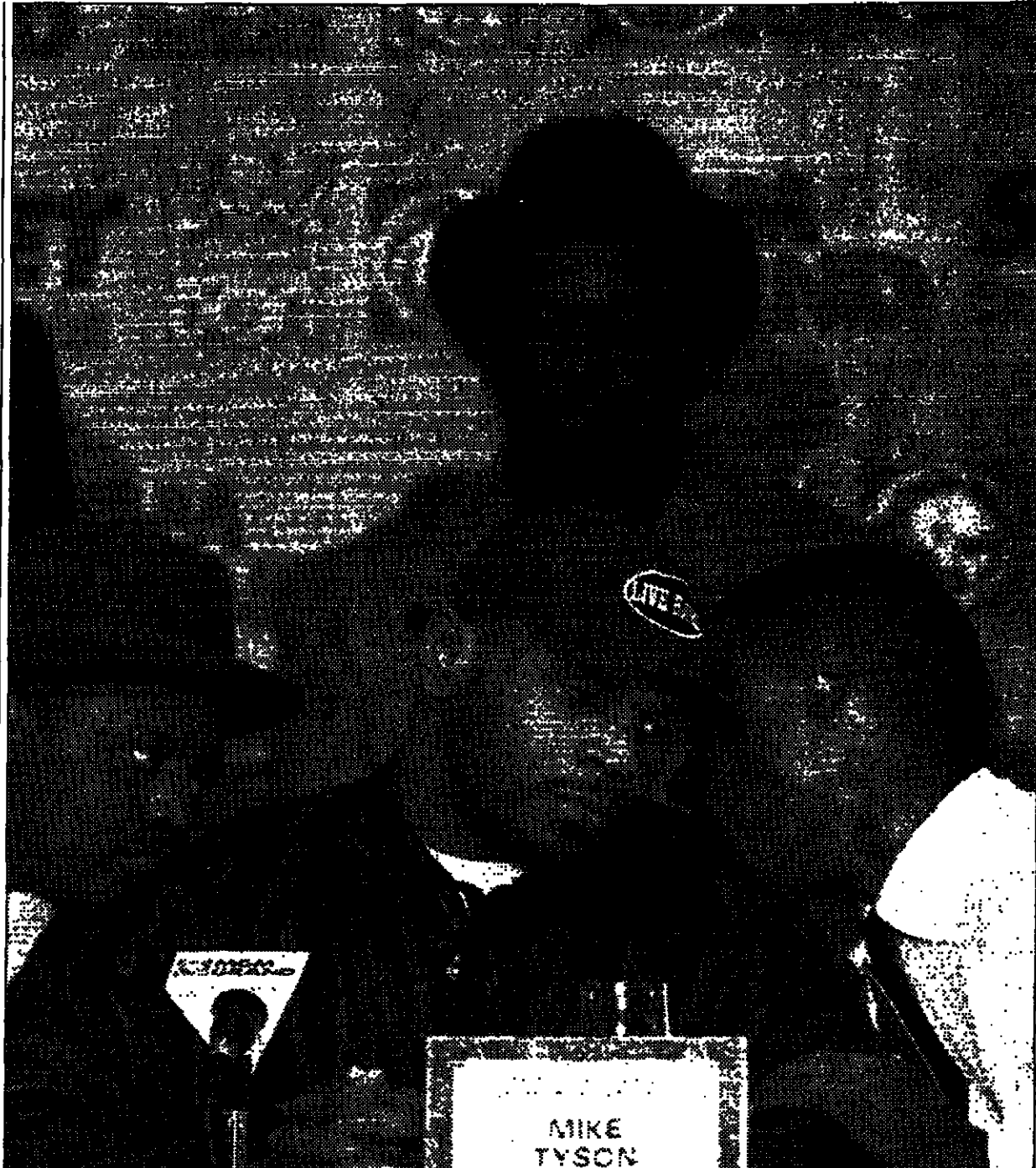
MICK HARFORD, the Wimbledon striker, and Gerard Lavin, Millwall's recent full-back signing from Watford, were yesterday charged with misconduct by the Football Association.

away from the Chelsea dug-out by a safety officer, Keith Lacy, who described Harford's language as "vile".

Ward boosts Derby hopes

DERBY COUNTY are set to reinforce their First Division promotion challenge by signing the Norwich striker Ashley Ward, for whom the club has agreed a £7 million fee.

fielder, yesterday signed a new four-year contract after two days of negotiations. "My wife and I are settled in the area and I would be happy to see out my playing career here," he said.



Keep your wits about you... Mike Tyson takes advice at the MGM Grand's press conference

Lewis battles to be next against Bruno or Tyson

Kevin Mitchell in Las Vegas follows the legal preliminaries to tomorrow's big fight

LENNOX LEWIS, the heavyweight nobody wants, may be within the bang of a judge's gavel of forcing his way back into contention as challenger to the winner of this weekend's big fight.

late, and rambled on for two hours, a boring and largely pointless exercise far removed from the entertaining pre-fight performances of Muhammad Ali and his various straight men.

Results

Rugby Union: CLARE MATCH: Connacht v Ulster v Leinster. GOLF: DUBAI DESERT CLASSIC: First-round leaders (GB) and tie unless stated: "amateur".

Cricket

SHEFFIELD SHIELDS: Sydney v Queensland 315-8 (1st Test); 1-5 Casagrande (N.S.W.) 1-5; 2-5 Casagrande (N.S.W.) 1-5; 3-5 Casagrande (N.S.W.) 1-5.

Cycling

PARIS TO NICE RACE: First stage (Milieu circuit, 162.8km): 1, S Casagrande (N.S.W.) 1-5; 2, S Casagrande (N.S.W.) 1-5; 3, S Casagrande (N.S.W.) 1-5.

Badminton

ALL-ENGLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS: (Singles) M. Pringle (Wales) 15-10, 15-10, 15-10; (Doubles) M. Pringle & J. Goss (Wales) 15-10, 15-10, 15-10.

Basketball

EUROPEAN CUP: (Semi-final) CSKA Moscow 83, Pau-Orthez (Fr) 74. CSKA qualify for the Final Four.

Billiards

WORLD MATCHPLAY CHAMPIONSHIP (Semi-final): Graeme Dott (Scot) 4-0, Peter Ebdon (Eng) 4-1.



Extra time The noble art, a bloody business

IN OCTOBER, when James Murray died from boxing injuries, the Guardian's correspondent John Rodda wrote that "the drip, drip, drip on my conscience has taken me close to the point where I believe it should be handed in".

Sixth column

DAVID PICKLES, secretary of the BHA, denied this week that ice hockey is becoming more violent. "Major punishments have decreased," he said.

Bruno black-out after Sky imposes 'unacceptable' terms for footage

means terrestrial viewers will be denied any access to the fight. The situation is totally unacceptable and we will not be editorially dictated to."

Fixtures

LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier Division Drogheda Utd v Bohemians (7.45); Shelbourne v Dundalk (7.45).



England's cricketers

England's cricketers were not just overwhelmed ultimately; Sri Lanka outplayed them initially. In the days when England was great and giving the game to the natives, the team had a certain quality.

Montgomerye... slim hope

COLIN MONTGOMERYE has lost two stone and four waistline inches in three months in his quest for one of golf's majors, and plans to lose another stone too.

Ward boosts Derby hopes

DERBY COUNTY are set to reinforce their First Division promotion challenge by signing the Norwich striker Ashley Ward, for whom the club has agreed a £7 million fee.



Winging in... Underwood scores one of the tries, this time against Scotland, that have helped him towards the 85th cap he wins tomorrow against Ireland

Underwood defies age barrier

Robert Armstrong on the England wing hoping tomorrow will not be his last game

IT IS possible that Rory Underwood will be making his last appearance for England in tomorrow's Five Nations Championship match against Ireland at Twickenham when he wins his 85th cap.

By the time England host their next international, against Italy on November 16, the Leicester and Lions wing will be 33 years and five months old, an age at which the great majority of Test three-quarters have retired, either on their own initiative or at the behest of selectors.

Underwood's desire to keep trotting out in an England shirt is as sharp as ever and he has shown in timed sprints that he is as fast as he was 10 years ago. Certainly he has the explosive pace to plunder

New Zealand does not play for the money, welcome though that is, but simply because he enjoys the challenge.

He will not admit that there may never be another wing quite like him, especially in terms of longevity, but the pressure to score tries and to keep winning in Test Rugby will cut down most players before they rack up 50 caps, never mind 85.

If Underwood represents a fast-fading age of innocence, he also embodies the contemporary obsession with success, hence his important role in England's three Grand Slams since 1990.

"I feel strong enough to come back next season and help England win more games," he declared. "My body has not been giving out warning signals, the management are happy, the club is happy and I feel good about my rugby."

The man who scored a brace of tries in last year's World Cup semi-final against

the mistake of formally announcing his retirement again, having done so in 1992 only to return to the England squad by the end of the year.

"This season I got a lot of stick after the South Africa and Western Samoa games. The message was that I should be taken to the knackers' yard and put away," he recalled.

"I think people generally have been very harsh on England, given the number of fresh faces in the side. Maybe we are not playing as well as we have done in previous years, but if you wanted results overnight you would not pick the team we've got with new players making up a third of it. The young guys have been under pressure straight away but have actually done very well. They are very hard and they just get stuck in and give their best."

In contrast to the likes of Jon Sleightholme, who wins his fourth cap tomorrow, Underwood has been around so long that it is easy to overlook his part in victories over every major rugby power. The scalps of the southern hemisphere nations are especially cherished, none more than Australia's in last year's World Cup triumph. For all that, on an individual level Underwood regards his most formidable opponent as Iwan Evans, his old Lions team-mate.

The French wings, Saint-André and Ntamack, are tremendous competitors, very difficult to defend against, and Simon Geoghegan is unpredictable and always gives 100 per cent, but Iwan is the wing I have the greatest respect for," he said. "I admire the courage and ambition he displayed in coming back so many times after injuries."

"During matches we don't bother with silly stuff like

WORLD CUP CRICKET

Calcutta cloud has silver lining

David Hopps on referee Clive Lloyd's riot measures

IF ANY good came from the hooliganism that forced the abandonment of India's World Cup semi-final against Sri Lanka in Calcutta on Wednesday, it was a recognition that the International Cricket Council's recently introduced system of match referees has passed one of its most demanding tests.

While police showed little inclination to curb the protests, and nobody — not even West Bengal's chief minister Jyoti Basu, who crept off to bed — bothered to make an appeal for calm, Clive Lloyd, the referee appointed for the semi-final, took swift and decisive action.

From the moment that he emerged on the Eden Gardens outfield the ICC response was firm and assured. Immediately he made it plain to all parties that if attempts to restart the game proved abortive he would have no hesitation in awarding the match to Sri Lanka.

The assertion of his authority ensured that an unruly if not particularly disturbing situation did not deteriorate further.

The umpires, who had been uncertain what course to take when the riotous decision taken from their hands, and the Sri Lanka fielders, trusting Lloyd's assurances that their safety was a prime consideration, did not overreact and leave the field of their own accord.

Most strikingly, tournament officials, some of whom are not exactly immune to strutting displays of self-importance, had no opportunity to politicise and distort events to save face. To see

them trailing in Lloyd's wake like respectful courtiers was a most uplifting sight.

The ICC chief executive David Richards was among those who praised Lloyd's swift intervention. It has not been a good few months for the ICC, which has lacked the authority to intervene on issues such as the bribery allegations made against Salim Malik, the calling of Sri Lanka's off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan for throwing, and the chaos after Australia and the West Indies forfeited their matches in Colombo.

As a former West Indies captain, Lloyd was aware of Eden Gardens' volatile reputation. In 1966, West Indies beat India there in three days and the West Indies were forced to make a hasty exit by burning whatever they could lay their hands on.

Seventeen years later West Indies defeated India in three days, and two India players, Sunil Gavaskar and Kapil Dev, were pelted with fruit. Gavaskar resolved never to play there again.

The sadness is that India has been the lifeblood of the World Cup. Discerning crowds have turned out in numbers for neutral matches, displaying a true passion for cricket, in contrast to Pakistan where there has been a passion only for nationalism.

Calcutta had cheered Australia and England in the 1987 final and had come to a standstill when the South Africa side visited in 1992, but in Kipling's phrase, on Wednesday night it really did become the City of Dreadful Night.

Police yesterday posted a precautionary guard at the Hyderabad home of the India captain, Sachin Tendulkar, who visited in 1992, but in Kipling's phrase, on Wednesday night it really did become the City of Dreadful Night.

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Carling puts pride before points

WILL CARLING yesterday insisted that his final game as England captain tomorrow represented an opportunity to win the Triple Crown rather than merely a chance to round off his leadership in spectacular style, writes Robert Armstrong.

He said anything less than a committed team effort could see England come badly unstuck, so his relinquishing the captaincy had to be regarded as secondary.

"No doubt I will feel sad and a bit emotional about stepping down by Saturday

evening, but the game is there to be won and I will have to concentrate on doing my job as captain," he said. "It has been my life for the past eight years and I want to get it right on the day. Anyway, I hope it is not my last time out with England."

Carling denied that the slim prospect of winning the championship by making up a points-difference deficit of 22 on France, the favourites, who meet Wales, would influence England's tactics against Ireland, who won at Twickenham two years ago.

"This season we haven't done ourselves justice as a team, but it would be disrespectful to the Irish to go into the game thinking how many points we might score," he said.

"If you do that things can go horribly wrong, and rightly so. We will go out simply to win the match, and our strategy won't change no matter what the French are doing. We have a very good record at Twickenham over the past three years and we want to preserve it. We want to play successful rugby but beating the Irish by a big margin is not a realistic goal."

Carling hoped that his final team talk as captain would make a telling impact on his players. "I'll try to capture the mood of the side and provide a hook to hang our confidence on. We are very proud of each other and of the sort of players we are."

● The England Under-21 squads to play France at Bath on April 19 and Italy away on May 11 will be coached by Clive Wood, who has replaced Bath's Andy Robinson as his assistant. They replace Stan Liptrot, who remains a selector, and Adrian Gouldstone.

Rugby League

Leeds fight on in Innes case

THE walter of legal action in Australia has overshadowed Leeds's attempt to gain compensation from Manly-Warringah for their former All Black wing Craig Innes, but the matter is still the subject of legal action in Sydney.

Innes rejoined Manly after Leeds beat Warrington in the fifth round of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup at Wembley on February 10. Leeds, claiming the 28-year-old is still the subject of legal action in Sydney.

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appears to be unexpired contract.

While the Wigan chairman Jack Robinson, who denies corruption allegations made by a newspaper this week, yesterday claimed to have the full support of his board of directors. "There are several inaccuracies in the story," he said.

Mike Gregory, the former Great Britain tour captain, will appear before the RFL's board of directors on Tuesday in an attempt to be allowed to take up the post of assistant coach at St Helens, Salford, who paid Warrington £30,000 for his services almost two years ago, are blocking the move because Gregory still has three months of his playing contract to serve with the club.

"This is still a live issue as far as we are concerned," Leeds's chief executive Alf Davies said last night. "Maurice Lindsay, the RFL's chief executive, is briefing our legal advisers in Sydney and our claim is continuing."

Lindsay flew to Australia this week to support Rupert Murdoch's Super League in its appeal against Justice Burchett's judgment for the ARL. No transfer or compensation agreements are yet in place between the warring clubs, but Innes is the only player signed from Britain by the ARL who has left with what

Badminton

Tension helps Hall to fall

Richard Jago in Birmingham

DARREN HALL shrugged off a defeat by the world champion from Essex last 15-10, 15-10 to the brilliant Indonesian Heryanto Arbi in the last 16 of the Yonex All England Championships, his performance falling short of the outstanding efforts that recently accounted for two men in the world's top 10. However, in reaching the third round he showed flashes of the improvement that has taken him to his best form in three years.

"I was a bit tense today and didn't move so well," the 30-year-old said, "but generally I feel more like my old self and I'm sure I can challenge for a medal."

His most fluid attacking moments came when he recovered from 4-10 to 9-11 in the first game and from 6-13 to 10-13 in the second against an opponent aiming for his third All England title in four attempts. Hall will learn for certain about the seeding after the qualifying cut-off date on April 1.

Julie Bradbury, Britain's best hope for an Olympic medal, reached two quarter-finals. She and Joanne Wright won 15-4, 15-7 against the Japanese pair Hisako and Yatsuko Mizui, and with Simon Archer she beat the Danes Thomas Stavnem and Ann Jespersen 15-11, 15-4 in the mixed doubles.

Sport in brief

Tennis

Tim Henman continued in his bid to reach the quarter-finals by beating the No. 8 seed Marc Gollner 6-3, 6-3 in the Copenhagen ATP tournament. The 21-year-old from Oxford now faces another German, Martin Sinner, who reached the quarter-finals by beating the top-seeded Jan Siemerink.

Britain have selected Sam Smith, Megan Miller and Valda Lake to make their Fed Cup debuts alongside the experienced Clare Wood in the Europe-Africa Group One play-off in La Manga from April 22-28.

Thomas Muster was again beaten within a few days of assuming the No. 1 slot, eliminated 6-3, 7-5 from the £1.5 million Newweek Championships in Indian Wells by the Italian Adrian Panatta.

Snooker

Stephen Hendry closed in on his fifth title of the season by beating John Parrott, his recent nemesis, 5-1 to reach the semi-finals of the Thailand Open in Bangkok last night, writes Clive Everton.

The world champion, who had failed to overcome Parrott in their three previous meetings, made breaks of 71, 48 and 112 and stole two frames on the pink after Parrott had squandered clear-cut chances. He now faces Ken Doherty, a 5-1 winner over Jamie Woodman.

Rugby Union

Dewi Bebb, the former Wales and Lions wing, has died aged 57.

Ice Hockey

The Durham Wasps and Humber Hawks have been fined £1,000 each after their players braved during the warm-up before their British Championship play-off game last Saturday.

Golf

Faldo fretful and forgetful

Davis Davies in Orlando

NICK FALDO, who spends hours using every mechanical and computer-aided device to avoid a simple human error in the first round of the Bay Hill Invitational here in Florida yesterday.

Faldo, who eventually finished with a level-par 72 to be five behind the early leaders Mark O'Meara and Paul Goydos, incurred a two-stroke penalty at the 4th when he failed to replace his ball correctly after marking it. That

Torrance misses birdie rush

Michael Britten in Dubai

MIGUEL-ANGEL Jimenez and Jay Townsend shared 17 birdies and only 51 putts in a spectacular opening to the Dubai Desert Classic at the Emirates Club here yesterday.

The Spaniard had five successive birdies in a homeward 90 for a nine-under-par 63 and one-stroke lead over the American, who celebrated his 34th birthday with six birdies in an outward 31.

For each it was a career-best round on the European circuit, but Ernie Els's course record of 61 is far from safe. After three days of heavy rain the near-perfect greens were so inviting that 72 of yesterday's 135 starters beat par.

This must have been frustrating news for Sam Torrance on his way home because of a freak accident on Tuesday, when he strained an ankle ligament pushing a luggage trolley at the airport. The injury failed to respond to treatment and he will have X-rays as soon as he returns to Britain.

Colin Montgomerie, the European No. 1, went round in 67. Despite a heavy cold, the defending champion Fred Couples scored 69, as did Ian Woosnam, Severiano Ballesteros was happy with a 71, seven shots better than his opening round in Morocco last week.

That score would have been even better but for bogeys at the last two holes; he hit a palm tree with his recovery from a sandy waste, then overshot the flag with a greenside chip.

Cycling

Rookie Casagrande revels in wet and miserable pile-up

William Fotheringham in Millau

ONE man's misfortune is another's good luck, according to an old French maxim, and no doubt the locals were muttering it yesterday here in this little town on the river Tarn in south-west France, after a high-speed crash involving almost one-third of the field in the Paris-Nice handed the rookie professional Stefano Casagrande his maiden stage victory.

The *chute colossale* came on a dizzy descent with 18 miles to go just as the bunch was preparing to reel in the 23-year-old Italian, who had been out front in freezing rain and bitter cold for most of a 102-mile circuit of Millau in the "Race to the Sun".

Not only did the pile-up halt the bunch's impetus, it also brought down many of the team-mates of the sprinters who were expecting to fight out the finish.

Normally Casagrande's break would have been reined in well before the finish by

body swing. It's amazing." That is true, in every sense.

Faldo began as if unplugged, bogeying the first two holes and missing from inside six feet on each. That he was in one of his frustration Faldos moods became obvious at the 11th when he shouted out as he stood over the ball for the crowd to stand still — and then did it again as he addressed a little chip on the same hole.

One of the reasons for that frustration was undoubtedly one of his playing partners, Corey Pavin. The US Open champion was hitting the ball so badly it must have been driving even Pavin crazy.

At the 11th the American half-topped a drive and it finished 40 yards behind Faldo, and at the next he skulled a mid-iron second. Even so he played the holes in one under, compared with Faldo's par figures: Pavin finished at three under, which was scarcely believable in the context of his play.

If it's not one thing, it is of course another, especially in golf, and Bernhard Langer felt the force of that truism yesterday. Having battled manfully against his latest bout of the putting yips — he consulted Leadbetter on Wednesday — the German went out yesterday and, on a perfect scoring day, took 73.

"My short game has been very worrying over the last two weeks," he said, "but today it was great." And so it was, but his long game, which is usually so reliable, saw him drag a six-iron into the water at the 11th and produce a near-shank with a four-iron into the lake at the 18th, both shots costing him double-bogey sixes.

Cycling

the team-mates of fast men such as Mario Cipollini and the winner of the second stage, Wilfried Nelissen, but yesterday they were either licking their wounds or struggling to regain the bunch.

It was left to Chris Boardman's GAN team and the race leader Laurent Jalabert's ONCE squad to make the running in the lead group of 34 riders who survived the crash. In the end Casagrande held on by only 25cc.

Jalabert, having shown himself strongest uphill in the previous two days, proved himself one of the fastest on the flat by outprinting Boardman's team-mate Frédéric Moncassin for second place, taking a 6cc bonus to edge further ahead of the American Lance Armstrong.

The faces coming in behind the Frenchman were grim and gritty after what amounted to four hours in a cold shower of dirty water. "At one point I wanted to put on a second rain-jacket," said Boardman. "I had to stop because I couldn't bend my arms, they were so cold."

Legal bid to devalue Bruno fight, page 14

Montgomerie opens his campaign, page 15

Italian soccer grinds to a halt, page 14

Rory Underwood's swansong?, page 15

SportsGuardian

WORLD CUP CRICKET

Mike Selvey in Chandigarh sees Shane Warne spin Australia to victory from the jaws of defeat and into Sunday's final

West Indies sink in panic

AUSTRALIA, who refused to play Sri Lanka a month ago in Colombo, cannot feel relaxed about facing them in the final in Lahore on Sunday after a nerve-racking victory over West Indies here last night.

Mark Taylor, the most complete international captain at present, manipulated his side to victory by five runs as Richie Richardson's dream of carrying the World Cup into retirement disappeared before his eyes in the Mohali Stadium. Asked to make only 206 to win and go through to the final, West Indies' temperamental batsmen panicked without reason.

Three balls remained when Damien Fleming, entrusted to bowl the last over with West Indies requiring nine to win — a task which would have been sufficient because of their win over Australia in the qualifying round — beat Courtney Walsh's abject lunge and clipped the top of middle stump, Richardson, helpless

at the other end and desperate to regain the strike, could only watch in dismay.

"Unbelievable really," he said afterwards. He has spoken no truer words. His unbeaten 49 is possibly his last innings in international cricket.

West Indies had done all the hard work and at 165 for two, with nine overs remaining and a sensible partnership between Richardson and Shivnarine Chanderpaul already worth 72, it ought to have been plain sailing. But 51 deliveries later it was all over as calm reason was replaced

AUSTRALIA

M E Waugh lbw b Ambrose	0
M A Taylor b Bishop	0
R J Ponting lbw b Ambrose	0
S R Waugh b Bishop	0
S G Lawler lbw b Ambrose	0
M G Bevan & Richardson b Harper	77
T A Healy run out	91
S F Warne not out	91
Extras (R11, w5, nb2)	10
Total (49.3 overs)	207
Fall of wickets: 0, 7, 8, 15, 18, 171, 183, 207	

West Indies

S Chandrapaul c Fleming b McGrath	50
T O'Brien c & b Warne	18
B C Lara b S R Waugh	45
R B Richardson not out	48
S A Warner lbw b McGrath	1
O D Gibson b Healy b Warne	1
J C Adams lbw b McGrath	1
K J Arthurson c Healy b Fleming	0
I A Bishop b Warne	0
C E L. Ambrose run out	0
C A Walsh b Fleming	0
Extras (R4, w2, nb2)	0
Total (49.3 overs)	208
Fall of wickets: 25, 52, 105, 172, 178, 185, 197, 194, 202	

first by anxiety and then by frenzy.

It began with the dismissal of Chandrapaul, who had set out to bat through the innings and with concentration etched into his young face had done admirably in reaching 80. He had continued playing in the same way the total would have been attained.

But he and Richardson, mindful maybe of the threat posed by Shane Warne to quick scoring under pressure, decided that the bulk of the remaining runs had to be scored rapidly. Chandrapaul's cross-bat loick to mid-on began the procession.

West Indies then got everything wrong. Waiting in the dressing room was Jimmy Adams, a cool customer and perhaps the right man to help

steer them home. Instead, in came Roger Harper to slog, and when he departed rapidly — leg-before to McGrath — he was followed by Otis Gibson, who encountered trampoline bounce from Warne and was deemed to have edged to the wicketkeeper.

It was the first wicket in a marvellous pressure spell from Warne, the eventual Man of the Match, which was to bring him the further wickets of Adams and Ian Bishop, who apparently thinks flipper is a dolphin.

In between Arthurton heaved desperately and edged to Healy; as a front-line batsman who had scored only one run in five World Cup innings he would have earned a Least Valuable Player award. Ambrose was run out in the

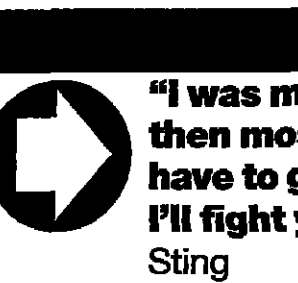
Ireland's Gold Cup overflows

Paul Weaver savours the jubilation as the 9-2 second favourite Imperial Call romps to victory by four lengths at Cheltenham

IN THE end the horse people and the horse people of Ireland had their hat-dancing, tricolour-waving, raucous day of ecstasy as Imperial Call charged home at 9-2 to win the Gold Cup by four lengths and ignite extraordinary scenes of celebration in the winners' circle.

It was the 16th race of the Cheltenham National Hunt Festival and the 16th time the favourite failed; One Man, the handsome grey who evokes rich memories of Nicolaus Silver and Desert Orchid, and with whom a nation yearned to fall in love, was beaten into a bedraggled sixth place.

This was Ireland's 19th Gold Cup success but their first since Jonjo O'Neill joyously punched the air after bringing in Dawn Run 10 years ago. When Elegant Lord won the next race yesterday it



Paul Weaver

Review page 7

tered before big European com...



You beauty... Ian Bishop heads off in an embarrassed hurry after being trapped leg-before by a delighted Shane Warne

Michael Bevan, cautiously at first and then more expansively, put together a fifth-wicket partnership of 138 which ended when Law was run out for 78 as they tried to push the scoring in the last 10 overs. Bevan followed in the next over, driving Harper to extra cover, but Healy nursed the tail while scampering 31 crucial runs.

On this essentially true pitch the target should have proved no problem. But West Indies rely too much on Brian Lara, who had just shifted up a gear by hitting Steve Waugh high to the long-on boundary and then cover-driving him awesomely. It took a special piece of bowling to start the change of direction.

Waugh is known as the Ice Man and once more he kept his cool when it mattered. As the ball sped to the boundary he furrowed his brow. Then he produced the loveliest little leg-cutter one ever saw. It drifted into the left-hander and opened him up like a can of Heinz's finest before darting away, ghosting past the outside edge and clipping the off stump. It was a delivery that deserved to win any match.

Mary P finds another bad habit to break

Stephen Bierley

DURING the 1964 Tokyo Olympics Mary Peters, who at Arthur McAllister as president of the British Athletic Federation, shared a room with her athletics idol Mary Rand. They banged a nail into the wall and joked about hanging their gold medals on it.

Rand, with a long jump world record of 6.76 metres, won the gold everybody had expected her to take in Rome four years earlier. In the pentathlon Peters finished a wonderful fourth. A telegram arrived from the decathlete Derek Clarke: "To Mary Rand, Queen of the Naturals, and Mary Peters, Queen of the Workers". It was a message which Mary P, as she is always affectionately known, treasures to this day.

Eight years later Mary P emulated Rand with a gold medal and a world record in the Munich pentathlon. In the bowels of the stadium she shared a cigarette with the German Heidiemarie Rosendahl, whom she had beaten by a mere 10 points. On that final nip-and-tuck day they smoked a packet each.

Mary P has stopped smoking since. Cynics might argue that joining the BAF will be enough to drive her back to it. By any standards British athletics had a rotten year in 1995. True, there were world championship medals for Jonathan Edwards, Kelly Holmes, Steve Backley and Tony Jarrett, but these successes were played out against a backdrop of contractual wrangles, falling attendances, disenchanted sponsors and seemingly endless back-biting.

TNOBODY'S great surprise the federation announced a deficit in the year ending September 30 1995 of almost £174,000. Its treasurer John Lister resigned at short notice complaining that he had had enough of all the bickering. He warned that the sport's dinosaurs were being replaced by new lumbering, anachronistic beasts.

Meanwhile Peter Radford, the BAF's executive chairman, launched a consultation document designed to address

Guardian Crossword No 20,601

Set by Pasquale

1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30

Across

- Roman building made of quartz maybe — 9 turned back at entrance (8)
- Salt from South Africa I behold on river (6)
- See 15
- Demonstrate endless prizes as 9 may be travelling (10)
- See me surrounded by UK 9s behind very good service beds (non-9s) (6)
- Most irritable 26, one in ordeal (8)
- 15, 10 The sort of load to gossip with a 9 (10)
- Cyril's about to supply what 18 will need? (6)
- Island guy, see, foolishly imprisoning UK 9s (8)
- Dire message from 9 maybe in what should be celebratory time (6)

Down

- Activity that 9s should be capable of — or army in the country (8)
- 9 won't want to err in front of the king (4)
- Craft of 9 inside and possibly 9 outside making hut (6)
- 9 needing direction to reach railway in town (8)
- 1 sit idly around sheltering 9 with physical impairment (10)

Solution tomorrow

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